FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Near East & South Asia

Vol V No 165 *26 August 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 August Middle East and South Asia Review ..... AA 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Further Reportage on Arab League Council Session ..... BB 1
Kuwaiti Minister Delivers Speech *[Kuwait]* ..... BB 1
Arab-Iran 'Break' Possible *[KUNA]* ..... BB 2
Arab League Council Resolution *[SPA]* ..... BB 2
Push To Adopt Resolution *[KUNA]* ..... BB 3
Al-Shar' Speech Blocks Resolution *[Damascus]* ..... BB 3
Jordanian Minister on Resolution *[Amman]* ..... BB 4
PLO's Qaddumi Addresses Council *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... BB 4
Prince Sa'ud Concludes Meeting *[SPA]* ..... BB 5
Arab Committee To Resume Contacts *[INA]* ..... BB 5
Iraq's 'Aziz, Jordan's Al-Masri Meet *[Voice of the Masses]* ..... BB 5
Syria's Stand Criticized *[INA]* ..... BB 5

OPEC AFFAIRS

OPEC Price, Production Committees To Meet 7 Sep *[OPECNA]* ..... EE 1

ALGERIA

Ibrahimi, Libyan Envoy Discuss Cooperation ..... A 1
Mali President Arrives for Private Visit 18 Aug ..... A 1
Meets With Bendjedid ..... A 1
Saudi Defense Minister Arrives for Talks 25 Aug ..... A 1
Saudi Military Delegation Arrives on Visit ..... A 1

CHAD

OAU Chairman Arrives for Talks With Habre ..... B 1
Meets With Habre 25 Aug ..... B 1
Departs for Algiers ..... B 1
Ex-Minister Refutes Amnesty International Reports ..... B 1
JANA: 'Revolutionary' Factions Cable Al-Qadhdhafi ..... B 2

EGYPT

Sudan's Khalil Comments on Tunis Conference ..... C 1
Muslim Brotherhood Statement on Mecca Incidents *[AL-SHAB 18 Aug]* ..... C 1
Malian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo 25 Aug ..... C 1

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Senegal President's Adviser ..... D 1
Palestinian Liberation Officials Visit Tripoli ..... D 1
Meet With Al-Qadhdhafi ..... D 1
Jabir Receives Leaders ..... D 1
Algerian Deputy Chief of Staff Arrives 24 Aug ..... D 1
Begins Talks ..... D 1
Departs 25 Aug ..... D 1

SUDAN

SPLA Commander Releases 1 UK, 3 U.S. Nationals *[Radio SPLA]* ..... G 1
NIF Agrees To Negotiate National Government Issue ..... G 1
Opposition Talks in Addis Ababa Conclude *[Addis Ababa]* ..... G 1
Joint Statement Issued *[Radio SPLA]* ..... G 2
SPLM Spokesman Issues Warning to Foreigners *[Radio SPLA]* ..... G 2

TUNISIA

Islamic Fundamentalists Demonstrate, To Be Tried ..... H 1
MTI Organizes Demonstration *[AFP]* ..... H 1
MTI Members To Stand Trial *[AFP]* ..... H 1
MTI Demonstrators Protest Trial *[AFP]* ..... H 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Jordanian Foreign Minister Meets With Amir 26 Aug ..... J 1
Ends Visit, Departs ..... J 1

KUWAIT

Shaykh Sabah Returns, Comments on League Resolution ..... J 1

OMAN

Soviet Source Cited on Opening of Embassy ..... J 1
Minister Comments on Tunis Arab League Session ..... J 1

PDRY

Nu'man Receives PRC Foreign Aid Official ..... J 2

SAUDI ARABIA

Envoy to Kuwait Interviewed on Gulf Issues *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 25 Aug]* ..... J 2
Riyadh Views Arab League Ministerial Meeting ..... J 3

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Merchant Ship Sinks off Dubai Coast 25 Aug ..... J 3
Heir Apparent Meets Iranian Presidential Envoy *[Tehran]* ..... J 3

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Official Leaves for Tunis Information Meeting ..... J 4

IRAQ

'Aziz Returns From Arab League Meeting in Tunis ..... K 1
Officials Laud Resolutions ..... K 1
Communique No 2,794 Details 24-25 Aug Combat ..... K 1
Spokesman Refutes Iranian Claims on Fighting ..... K 1

ISRAEL

Peres on Conference, Lavi, Jericho Missile *[THE JERUSALEM POST 26 Aug]* ..... L 1
Peres on Soviet Missiles, RSA, Regional Issues ..... L 1

Nisim, Rabin Support New Peres Proposal on Lavi ..... L 2
Syrian Missile Found 'Intact' in Lebanon ..... L 2
Nepalese UNIFIL Soldier Killed, 3 Wounded in Ambush ..... L 2
Shamir Cites U.S. Pressure on Direct USSR Flights ..... L 2
Romania Refuses Transit Role for Soviet Jews *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Aug]* ..... L 2
Hungary To Announce Visa Offices 'Next Month' *[HA'ARETZ 26 Aug]* ..... L 3
'Secret' Likud-Tehiya Pact on Elections Disclosed *[MA'ARIV 25 Aug]* ..... L 3

LEBANON

Priest Says Waite in 'Reasonably Good Health' *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Lahd Command Says 2 SAM Missiles Land in South ..... N 1
Pro-'Arafat Official Killed in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp *[VONR]* ..... N 1
Said To Survive Shooting *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Birri, Junblatt Arrive in Damascus for Talks *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Lebanese Forces Urge Joint Support for Government *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Egyptian Group Member Captured in Clash *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... N 2
Syrian Forces in Rashayya Estimated at 1 Brigade *[RFL]* ..... N 2

SYRIA

5 'Criminals' Executed for Bus 'Massacre' ..... O 1
Commentary Says Iraq 'Responsible' for Gulf War ..... O 1
Saudi Minister Arrives, Makes Statement 25 Aug ..... O 1
CSSR Deputy Premier Meets With Al-Kasm 26 Aug ..... O 2
Assembly Speaker Returns From USSR 25 Aug ..... O 2
TISHRIN Cited on British Official's Remarks on Ties ..... O 2

AFGHANISTAN

Pakistan's Encroachment Claims 'Strongly' Rejected ..... P 1
KYODO: Sources Say Soviet-Kabul Troops Destroy Town ..... P 1
AFP: Mujahidin Study Plan for Interim Government ..... P 1

INDIA

Gandhi on Indian Ocean Deep Sea Mining Rights ..... R 1
'Terrorists' Attack Police Training School in Chandigarh ..... R 1
Punjab Chiefs Says 'Terrorists' Surrendering to Police ..... R 1
Pakistan Accused of Arming Sikhs To Kill VIP's *[AFP]* ..... R 1
Punjab Governor Asked To Review 'Confrontation' Policy *[INDIAN EXPRESS 19 Aug]* ..... R 2
Communists Party Workers Flee From Gurkha Militants *[AFP]* ..... R 2

IRAN

Rajai'e-Khorassani Comments on Gulf, UN Resolution ..... S 1
Tehran Reports Musavi 25 Aug News Conference ..... S 1
Bans Export of Scrap, Waste Copper ..... S 2
Karrubi News Conference Statement on Mecca ..... S 2
Further Reportage on Visit of PRC Official ..... S 7
Holds Talks With Velayati ..... S 7
Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani ..... S 7
Mo'ayeri Departs on Visit to Turkey, CSSR, Bulgaria ..... S 8
Commentary Denounces Iraqi Bombing of Civilians ..... S 8
Navy Searches Foreign Vessels in Strait of Hormuz ..... S 8
Navy Commander Interviewed on Minesweeping ..... S 9

SRI LANKA

5 Parliament Employees Held for Grenade Attack ..... W 1
Police Arrest 6 JVP Members for Official's Murder ..... W 1
WEEKEND Notes 'New' Intelligence on Proscribed Party *[16 Aug]* ..... W 1

26 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD261348 [Editorial Report]

Inter-Arab Affairs

A 3-day emergency meeting of the Arab League Council ended in Tunis 25 August with the passage of a resolution which reaffirms Arab solidarity with Iraq in the conflict with Iran but does not call for Arab nations to break relations with that country. According to the text of the resolution carried by SPA, the Council called on Iran to accept UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and urged the UN body to "speedily adopt measures which ensure compliance." While declaring support for the Gulf states of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and speaking in favor of freedom of navigation, the resolution denounced the "acts of sabotage and anarchy" carried out by Iran during the hajj season and condemned "interference in the internal affairs of Arab states." Furthermore, Iran was specifically criticized for its "serious violation" of international law in connection with the actions against the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran. The resolution stipulated that following consultations, the emergency session should reconvene no later than 20 September to "examine future Arab-iranian relations."

In remarks cited by KUNA, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi did not discount the possibility that the Council might still call for breaking relations with Iran. He noted that "for the sake of neighborly and civilized relations," the decision on severing ties had been postponed.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal praised "the commitment to joint Arab action and Arab solidarity" in remarks to the closing session carried by SPA. The Saudi minister also hoped that the Council's "balanced resolution" would serve "joint interests" in achieving "peace, collective security, and stability." A Riyadh radio commentary had previously criticized the Arab League Council for experiencing "difficulty" in achieving "positive results."

Upon returning home, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir described the resolution as "comprehensive" and told KUNA that "the crisis has been given the necessary treatment."

Regarding other diplomatic action to resolve the Gulf conflict, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz told INA that the seven-member Arab committee on the war approved a "new working plan" aimed at bringing about the implementation of UN Resolution No 598. Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, told the paper *'Uman* that the GCC will continue to make efforts toward the fulfillment of Resolution No 598 and for an end to the "destructive war." On the subject of an Arab summit, the Omani official said that it will continue to be "deferred" until "favorable conditions" are created.

Iran

Reaction to Arab League — In remarks cited by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi asserted that the Arab League Council attempted to "separate the fate of the Arabs from the fate of 1 billion Muslims." Iran may be "forced" to forego the kind of relations it used to have, he said. Musavi also declared that the threat of an arms embargo does not "frighten" Iran because the country has resources "on a vast scale" and any embargo would "not be 100-percent successful" in any case. The radio noted 26 August that, on the orders of the prime minister, the Mines and Metals Ministry announced that no copper scrap metal may be exported and should be recycled in country.

Relations With Turkey — Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri was received by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to whom he delivered a message from Prime Minister Musavi, IRNA reported, adding that the message dealt with the war, the situation in the Gulf, and the recent events in Mecca as well as with the "growing trend" in bilateral relations. In remarks cited by *Anatolia*, Mo'ayeri praised Turkey's neutrality and said that he had no information on the arrest of 94 Iranian guardsmen who were taken into custody 23 August in Hakkari Province. AFP reported that they are suspected of planning to sabotage pipelines that carry Iraqi oil.

Gulf War

An "informed source" of the Iranian Navy denied that there was an "encounter" 24 August between an Iranian warship and a U.S. convoy in the Gulf, IRNA reported, adding that the source termed the U.S. report "utterly unfounded."

Sudan

Three Americans and a Briton captured 7 July by rebels in the south were released through Kenya, the clandestine Radio SPLA announced. An SPLA spokesman cited by the radio thanked the Kenyan Government for its "humanitarian assistance" and declared that the four "hostages of the situation" "would be most welcome" to continue their relief work. In a related development, another spokesman reiterated that all foreigners not authorized by the SPLA to work in rebel-controlled areas should evacuate for their own safety.

Tunisia

With the aid of civilians thought to be members of the recently established "vigilante committees," police in Tunis dispersed an antigovernment demonstration by Islamic fundamentalists protesting the trial of 80 "leaders and activists" of the opposition Islamic Tendency Movement, AFP reported. The defendants, 30 of whom will be tried in absentia, are accused of attempting to "overthrow the government in collusion with Iran," the agency noted.

Libya-Chad

Libya carried out "intensive bombing" of Faya Largeau, a FANT communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio announced. The communique added that every day since 8 August, Libyan warplanes have dropped "napalm, fragmentation bombs, or poisonous gas" on Aozou, Bardai, Zouar, Wour, Ounianga, Kouba-Olanga, Fada, and Faya Largeau.

Lebanon

Military Action — A Nepalese UNIFIL soldier was killed and three others wounded when they were ambushed near the village of Yatar, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio also disclosed that six IDF soldiers were wounded when their vehicle hit a land mine planted by the SLA.

Syrian military sources confirmed that missiles were fired at Israeli warplanes over Al-Biqa' 24 August, Beirut radio reported, adding that, according to a Lahd Militia source, the two SAM's landed in the Kafr Huna area.

'Arafat Supporter Murdered — According to Voice of National Resistance radio, Abu 'Ali Shahin, a pro-'Arafat official of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near Sidon, was assassinated.

Waite Healthy — According to Father Samir Habibi, a friend of Terry Waite, the kidnapped Anglican envoy is in "reasonably good health" and is probably being held in Beirut's southern suburb, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Israel

In remarks carried by Jerusalem radio, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed that Jordan has agreed to "negotiate directly and in a bilateral manner" with Israel within the framework of an international conference on the Middle East. On the subject of Palestinian representatives at the talks, Peres said they should be "authentic Palestinian leaders... not engaged in terror," *The Jerusalem Post* reported. The paper noted that in response to a question on the Jericho missile, Peres stressed that Israel "must make a major effort" to counter the introduction of various Soviet missiles in the region. however, he reaffirmed Israel's position against being the first to introduce nuclear weapons.

DRA-Pakistan

The Foreign Ministry denied "groundless allegations" that DRA soldiers "encroached" on various areas along the border with Pakistan 14 and 16 August, Kabul radio reported.

Further Reportage on Arab League Council Session

Kuwaiti Minister Delivers Speech

LD251635 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered a speech during the closed session of the Arab League Council emergency meeting the day before yesterday [23 August]. He began by underlining the significance of the meeting, which is being held to discuss one of the most important issues facing our nation. This issue constitutes a fateful challenge that not only affects a dear and precious part of our Arab homeland but the security and stability of the Arab homeland as a whole, around which and with which international interests are entwined.

Referring to the acts of disturbance by some Iranian pilgrims in Mecca in the vicinity of God's holy house, he praised the wise measures adopted by the Saudi officials, led by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to contain these events and to thwart their designs, thereby preventing them from developing into something bigger.

He said: In view of Iran's insistence on continuing its war with Iraq and on expanding it to embrace other Arab countries, we can only conclude that there is an organic link between the continuation of the current regime in Tehran and the continuation of this war.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad asked: Is it right that some parts of the Arab nation and its sons should become the fuel for the continuation of this conflict? He added that Iran's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which took a great deal of international effort to formulate in a balanced collective manner, provides clear proof of Iran's obduracy, arrogance, and refusal to respond to the international will.

He pointed out that insistence on the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war reflects a shortcoming in the Arab nation's ability to face up to the real challenges confronting it, headed by the Zionist aggression in the Arab land of Palestine and elsewhere. He said that Iran's occupation of some parts of sister Iraq was no different from any foreign occupation of any other part of Arab land.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad asked: Do not the disgraceful acts of anarchy committed in Mecca, the continued attacks on our commercial ships, the mining of the Gulf waterways, the obstruction of navigation, the threats and continued provocations to the countries of the region, the violation of the sanctity of their diplomatic missions in Tehran, the continued attempts to openly interfere in our internal affairs, and the sponsoring of acts of terrorism against our countries constitute an expansion of the war? He added that Iran's disregard for all Islamic values and all international laws and traditions has turned into unjust arrogance which Iran practices toward the smaller and less populated countries of the region.

He called on the sister countries to side with Kuwait against the new Iranian arrogance and haughtiness in view of our care and affirmation of the principle of equality among all countries irrespective of their size. He asserted: We in Kuwait are saddened to see Iran's insistence on continuing this war and its ongoing attempts to expand it, thus leading to an escalation in the foreign military presence in the Arab Gulf. We had always sought to transform this gulf into a bridge of love among the peoples of the region and an oasis for cooperation, security, and peace.

He affirmed that the commercial measures adopted by Kuwait to ensure the continued flow of its oil abroad were explained by the amir of Kuwait in messages to brother Arab leaders, who expressed their complete understanding of them. He added that these measures were neither unusual nor unfamiliar under such circumstances. In this regard, he said, we wish to make it fully clear that Kuwait, with its well-known care for manifesting its Arabness, which it greatly cherishes, is not happy to see foreign flags of whatever nationality flying over its ships. He added: You brothers are well aware of who has forced us to take such a measure, a measure which Iran itself had adopted before us when it hired foreign oil tankers and raised the flags of other countries over its tankers.

He said that Kuwait was pushed into resorting to this method after it had exercised maximum self-restraint ever since Iran had begun to strike at our oil tankers at the start of 1984. The only alternative, he noted, would have been submission to blackmail with all the detraction of our national values and the retraction from our principled stands that this would represent.

He pointed out that if the attempt to stop our oil exports had been successful, it would have led to an inability to meet our internal commitments or to continue to participate with our brothers in confronting the challenges of building and development which face the brother Arabs and Muslims.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad asked: Is it acceptable for the Arab world to sit on the fence when an Arab country is subjected to aggression and occupation by foreign powers under one pretext or another, as is happening at present to sister Iraq, on the grounds that we do not wish to bestow an Arab character on that conflict and to keep it confined between the Arab country concerned and the foreign power? He said that this would be a flagrant departure from the Arab League Charter, which we all must uphold even though it represents the minimum of our joint Arab action.

In conclusion, he called for the adoption of a collective stand behind UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and for a firm commitment to work for the implementation of all its provisions without laxity or hesitation. He also called for the world community to work for the actual implementation of their will as embodied in this resolution and the adoption of effective measures against the side that disregards or rejects the international will.

In light of this, he asserted, we are called upon, most persistently, to adopt a unified Arab stand based on a clear vision of the objective facts of this conflict and our determination to shoulder our pan-Arab commitments toward each other and toward all the challenges facing our Arab homeland without any reluctance. In

this way we affirm that this nation continues to possess the ability to cast off its differences at the appropriate moment for the sake of safeguarding Arab soil and the joint work for the realization of our pan-Arab interests.

Arab-Iran 'Break' Possible

LD251825 Kuwait KUNA in English 1718 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug 25 (KUNA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi Tuesday did not rule out the possibility of a break in diplomatic relations between Iran and the Arab states.

Klibi told newsmen at the close of the emergency council meeting of Arab foreign ministers held to examine the situation in the Gulf and Iranian threats to countries of the region, that the council decided not to embark on the decision in order to give Iran a chance to reconsider her political stances.

Klibi pointed out that the Arab states could resort to a break in relations with Iran if it persists in its threats to the Arab states. He said it was for the sake of neighborly and civilized relations between the Arab states and Iran that a decision to that effect has been put off until Sept 20.

Klibi expressed hope that stalling on the decision may also provide an opportunity to Iran to accept implementing the Security Council resolution in order to attain an equitable and honorable peace with Iraq.

Klibi warned that if Iran fails to respond in a forthcoming way to the Security Council, "I fear our nations will be obliged to reconsider their existing Arab-Iranian relations."

Meanwhile, the seven-nation committee entrusted to find a settlement to the Gulf war, met following the close of the council at the residence of the Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia.

Arab League Council Resolution

LD252146 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 25 Aug (SPA) — The emergency meeting of the Arab League Council ended here this afternoon. The 3-day session discussed the adoption of a unified Arab stance toward the current situation prevailing in the Arab Gulf. The following is the text of the Council's resolution:

The Arab League Council, convened at the foreign ministerial level in an extraordinary session in the city of Tunis during the 28-30 Dhi al-Hijjah, 1407 A.H., period corresponding to 23-25 August 1987;

While feeling a high degree of apprehension and sadness for the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war as a result of Iran's failure to respond to Arab and international peace initiatives and to the resolutions adopted by international organizations;

While expressing its profound anxiety for the continuation of a war which is aimed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a state that is a member of the Arab League in contravention of the principles of international law and the provisions of the UN Charter and resolutions — a war which is now threatening to expand its operational theater and which is subjecting the sovereignty and safety of other Arab League members to danger;

Out of its belief that the continuation of this war subjects the region to the dangers of foreign interference and drags it into an area of international conflicts and polarization — a matter which harms the region's security and the safety of its states and constitutes a factor of tension threatening international peace and security;

While reaffirming the central position which the Iraq-Iran war occupies among the Arab nation's concerns in view of the grave dangers which the continuation of this conflict and the possibilities of its expansion constitute for the Arab nation;

Being convinced that the continuation of this war is the cause of all these developments and dangers;

Recalling its categorical rejection of Iran's occupation of any part of Iraqi territory;

Taking into consideration the resolutions of the UN Security Council with regard to the war, particularly Resolution No 598, and the impossibility of this resolution being implemented in view of Iran's refusal to comply with its provisions;

While referring to Iran's rejection of all international endeavors, initiatives, and resolutions which seek to realize a just and honorable settlement of the conflict that will guarantee the legitimate rights of both sides and the establishment of good-neighborly relations between them in order to ensure security and stability in the region which will lead to the prosperity of the Arab nation and the Islamic world;

While expressing its profound anxiety over the dangers resulting from the threats being expressed by Iran to the Arab states in the Gulf, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait;

While reaffirming its denunciation of the continuous interference in the internal affairs of the Arab Gulf states and other Arab states;

Being convinced of the need to devote Arab and Islamic capabilities to the confrontation of the common Zionist enemy;

While declaring its resolve to safeguard the national security unity of the Arab nation and the safety of its greater homeland, and the fact that the security of the Arab Gulf states is an indivisible part of the Arab national security;

Has decided the following:

1. The Council reaffirms its solidarity with Iraq in its legitimate defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity and its efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace. It reaffirms its categorical rejection of the occupation of any part of Iraqi territory by Iran.

2. It expresses the Arab states' resolute stand against any threat to the security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Arab states in the Gulf, as well as its solidarity with these states in safeguarding their sovereignty and independence. It denounces Iran's threats against some of the member states, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait.

3. It calls for securing the freedom of navigation in the territorial waters of the Arab Gulf in accordance with international law and condemns the planting of mines in these waters.

4. The Arab League Council strongly denounces the acts of sabotage and anarchy carried out by Iranians during the pilgrimage season of 1407 A.H. [1987] which violated the sanctity of holy places and the rituals of the pilgrimage and its ethics, as well as the safety and security of the pilgrims to the house of God.

5. The Council reaffirms its solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It expresses its total support for the measures the Kingdom takes to provide a suitable atmosphere for the pilgrims to the house of God to perform their rites in security and submissiveness and to prevent any harm to the sanctity of the house of God and the feelings of Muslims. The Council rejects any act of anarchy in the holy places which violates the security and sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

6. The Council condemns the policy of sabotage and acts which violate internal security, as well as interference in the internal affairs of Arab states.

7. The Council calls on Iran to respond to the peace appeal and to accept a solution to the conflict by peaceful means in accordance with the UN Charter and international law and on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 adopted on 30 July 1987. The Council calls on the Security Council to speedily adopt measures which ensure compliance with the said resolution according to the appropriate provisions listed in the UN Charter.

8. The Council expresses its support for the State of Kuwait regarding the steps it has taken to protect its security and territorial integrity and to safeguard its commercial and economic interests.

9. The Council records with displeasure Iran's violation of the sanctity of the embassies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait and the immunity of their staff. This is a serious violation of the principles of international law and norms which regulate diplomatic relations between the countries of the world.

10. In accordance with previous League Council resolutions and the resolutions of earlier summit conferences, the Council has decided to keep the current emergency session open on condition that it will be reconvened through consultation between the chairman of the Council, the secretary general, and the members no later than 20 September 1987 to examine future Arab-Iranian relations in light of Iran's attitude to the continuation of the war against Iraq and its threats against the Arab Gulf states.

11. The Council entrusts the chairman of the session and the secretary general to conduct consultations with regard to the possibility of convening an Arab summit and to submit a report in this connection to the resumed meeting of this extraordinary session.

Push To Adopt Resolution

LD251517 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0956 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 25 Aug (KUNA) — The Arab foreign ministers today resumed their meetings, which are expected to conclude this afternoon, after the members of the drafting committee in charge of formulating a resolution ended their consultations, which lasted well into the night. The resolution will be presented at the closing session.

Diplomatic sources told KUNA that before the official opening of their session today the ministers will hold intensive consultations on the side to convince a number of states which had showed some reservation about the clauses of the draft resolution to change their position.

These sources revealed that the proposed resolution includes giving a 15-day respite to Iran after which the ministers would meet again on the 20th of next month to examine the economic and political measures that could be taken against the Tehran Government.

The sources indicated that the ministers might not demand at present the severance of diplomatic relations with Iran in order to give this country the opportunity to reconsider its position and to respond to international law by ending its war with Iraq.

The sources added that the ministers will intensify their consultations today to persuade a number of Arab states to accept a resolution, which had been adopted at a previous Arab summit, rejecting Iranian threats and Iran's occupation of Arab lands and affirming the Arab states' solidarity with Iraq in its war with Iran.

The sources noted that the draft resolution, which will be presented to the Arab foreign ministers today, will affirm that the Arab states stand by Kuwait in solidarity in the face of repeated Iranian threats. It will also condemn the Tehran Government for rejecting all the peaceful initiatives undertaken by organizations and other states.

Al-Shar' Speech Blocks Resolution

JN252109 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2025 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Tunis — The Arab League Council emergency session ended in Tunis this afternoon. The SANA correspondent in Tunis has learned from sources there, as well as from Arab and foreign media sources, that the speech delivered by the head of the Syrian Arab delegation at yesterday's session had prevented the conference from passing a draft resolution drawn up by the formulation committee. The SANA correspondent has also learned that continuous efforts exerted by the head of the Syrian delegation during the conference and on its sidelines, as well as his bilateral and collective contacts, further helped to prevent the

resolution from being passed yesterday afternoon. This draft resolution stipulates the severance of diplomatic relations between the Arab countries and Iran. It also legitimizes the foreign military presence in Arab Gulf waters and entrenches Arab dismemberment. Furthermore, the resolution puts the Arab nation in a position which is not a basic stand of confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

The Syrian Arab delegation, as well as other Arab delegations, have called for an Arab summit to be convened as soon as possible in order to formulate a comprehensive and cohesive strategy for the confrontation of all challenges faced by the Arab nation.

The conference charged Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister and the chairman of the current session, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to conduct consultations on the possibility of holding an Arab summit. They will also have to submit a report on this to the current open emergency session.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening after having led the Syrian Arab delegation to the Arab League Council emergency session. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Minister on Resolution

JN251746 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has reported that the Arab League Council's resolution includes many positive and clear stands on the Iraq-Iran war. In a statement to a PETRA correspondent in Tunis, the foreign minister expressed hope that the coming session of the Council will not be held after 20 September. He added that the next session will be decisive in view of the fact that during this meeting all Arab states will be able to adopt a unified, firm, and clear stand with regard to current issues.

PLO's Qaddumi Addresses Council

JN252032 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The PLO has called for an urgent Arab summit to check the deteriorating Arab state of affairs and to clear the Arab atmosphere. This was contained in a speech delivered by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], PLO Political Department head, at the closed meeting of the extraordinary Arab League Council. Brother Abu al-Lutf began his address by thanking Tunisia for its call to hold this session. He said that this meeting has aquired special importance and has more than one meaning. Our Arab nation is at a perilous turning point as a result of the deteriorating state of affairs in the Arab Gulf region.

Brother Abu al-Lutf explained that this meeting expresses the need for Arab soldiarity. He added: This meeting also reflects the common Arab desire to prove to the world that we are ready to protect our pan-Arab rights and pan-Arab security.

Brother Abu al-Lutf condemned the fabricated Mecca incidents. He said that these incidents are cogent proof of hostile inclinations directed not only against a fraternal Arab country but against Arabs and Muslims. Brother Abu al-Lutf emphasized the need to decisively confront the forces behind these incidents.

Brother Abu al-Lutf reiterated his praise of Iraq's stand. He said that Iraq has offered hundreds of thousands of martyrs and huge potential in defense of the Arab nation's eastern gate. He noted the heroic stand of the valiant Iraqi Army. Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the defense of the eastern gate is no less important than the confrontation of the peril in Palestine. He explained that the Arabs must firmly confront the designs and schemes that seek to apportion parts of our Arab countries and our Arab homeland.

Brother Abu al-Lutf reiterated the PLO's support for Arab Gulf countries. He said that the Arab countries should have adopted a collective and decisive stand a long time ago, for Arab forbearance has been interpreted as weakness. He stated: At this critical stage, we must seriously think about the fate of our Arab homeland and how to confront the imminent dangers and challenges. Brother Abu al-Lutf added: We must do this because the world's attention is riveted on us, wondering what we can do. Abu al-Lutf explained that the Arabs are not warmongers and do not wish to prolong the war. He said that we have always advocated peace. He added: However, the peace we want is a just, real, and dignified peace. It is the peace that emerges from the gun and force and from soldiarity and the discarding of differences and peripheral battles in our Arab homeland.

Brother Abu al-Lutf said that to achieve this, we must extirpate our domestic differences. He emphasized that these differences obstruct joint Arab action. He added that our only option is self-defense.

On pan-Arab security, Brother Abu al-Lutf said: The Arab east and the Arab Maghreb must meet. They are linked by inseparable bonds.

Brother Abu al-Lutf called for an urgent Arab summit that will seek to check the deteriorating Arab state of affairs and clear the Arab atmosphere. He then explained that good-neighborliness must be based on mutual respect and noninterference in domestic affairs. In this regard, he emphasized that the Arabs must emerge from this emergency session with a message to Europe, America, world public opinion, and all other forces that we are capable of defending ourselves. He added: So long as we do not resolve our domestic problems and prepare ourselves, our resolutions will remain ink on paper.

Brother Abu al-Lutf then noted that the Arabs do not oppose Iran as a regime or as a people. Rather, he said that the Arabs oppose its hostile and expansionist policy. This policy treats its neighbors unjustly. It adopts a supercilious attitude toward them and commits aggression against the brothers. He said: The state of affairs in the Gulf and the Arab region is a topical issue for the entire world. Brother Abu al-Lutf asked: Why do we not take care of our affairs by first liberating our will and shattering our domestic constraints? Then we can map out a unified stand. He added: Let us announce with a resounding voice that the Arab nation, with all its resources, supports Iraq and the Arab Gulf states. He also warned against the designs of some big powers against the Arab nation.

Prince Sa'ud Concludes Meeting

LD252126 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1835 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Tunis, 25 Aug (SPA) — At the end of the Arab League Council emergency session, his royal highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the session, delivered a speech. [passage omitted] Here is the text of this address:

Through God's guidance, today we concluded the first stage of this emergency session. We are pleased that what we have accomplished, through God's guidance and our mutual understanding, is due to everyone's commitment to the solidarity of the Arab nation and to everyone's appreciation of the grave turning point through which our Arab nation is passing.

After reaching such a good result, I am pleased to praise the commitment to joint Arab action and to Arab solidarity shown by the brothers during this meeting when one of our countries is facing a difficulty. I am pleased with their hastening to serious action, especially when this country's security, stability, and national interests are exposed to dangers.

We are full of hope that this balanced resolution, which we have agreed upon, will be implemented in order to serve our joint interests, to fulfill the aspirations of our nation to achieve peace, collective security, and stability which we pursue with total seriousness and sincerity, and to defeat those who wager on us proceeding toward division and dispersement.

In concluding my address, I would like to thank the Arab League secretary general and all his aides for their efforts which have facilitated our mission and work. I would like to thank fraternal Tunisia, headed by the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, and his well-guided government for their attention and hospitality. We ask God to guide us in serving our nation and its security, stability, and progress.

Arab Committee To Resume Contacts

JN251852 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 25 Aug (INA) — The 7-member Arab committee in charge of following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war has approved a new working plan to oversee an effective, quick, and comprehensive implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, issued on 20 July.

Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the committee, made a statement to an INA correspondent here tonight. He said that the 7-member committee has decided to continue its contacts with UN Security Council members and the UN secretary general. The committee is doing this in order to inform them of the important resolutions adopted by the emergency Arab League Council's meeting, which was concluded here today.

He added that the committee will continue to urge these sides to adopt the measures cited in the UN Charter for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. He indicated that the dates of the visits by the foreign ministers of the 7-member committee to the UN Security Council members will be fixed in the future.

The 7-member committee in charge of following up the Iraq-Iran war developments met earlier today in the presence of the Tunisian, Jordanian, Saudi, Kuwait, Moroccan, YAR, and Iraqi foreign ministers, as well as the Arab League secretary general. The conferees discussed the arrangements that should be made to implement a new working plan for the committee. With this plan, the committee can continue its contacts with the UN Security Council members for the purpose of implementing Resolution No 598.

Iraq's 'Aziz, Jordan's Al-Masri Meet

JN251234 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri in Tunis today. During their meeting, they discussed the practical measures which might be taken by the Arab League Council and the decisions reached by the committee in charge of formulating the final political communique, which concluded its works early this morning.

The Arab foreign ministers are expected to hold their final closed meeting later today.

Syria's Stand Criticized

JN261502 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug, 26, INA — Arab foreign ministers gave the Iranian regime 25 days ultimatum to think, resort to wisdom and stop aggression on Iraq and Arab Gulf states or else all forms of realtions will be severed with Iran.

Importance of resolutions endorsed by Arab foreign ministers which would be the basis for deliberations of the emergency session to be resumed at a date not exceeding 20th of September next lies with increase of Arab conviction in the necessity of breaking off relations with the Iranian regime and hold an Arab summit to discuss a sole subject namely, the Iraq-Iran war and its dangers.

Among other important resolutions adopted by the ministers was a call upon Security Council to speed up adoption of necessary measures for applying its Resolution No. 598 which was rejected by the Iranian regime and continued aggression against the region countries.

The ministers also endorsed a new working plan for a recommendation by the 7-Arab-member committee entrusted with following up developments of Iraq-Iran war during its meeting yesterday centered on a new working plan for a comprehensive and effective application of the resolution and continue contacts with the Security Council member states and the U.N. secretary general to brief them on results of the foreign ministers emergency session for adopting measures provided for in the Security

Council charter as concerning application of the mandatory Resolution No. 598. [sentence as received]

The Iraqi delegation led by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz played a prominent role in crystallizing a unified Arab stand vis-a-vis Iranian threats towards the Arab nation.

Delegation of the Syrian regime hopelessly tried to sabotage Arab unanimity on the necessity of confronting the Iranian regime which constitutes a big danger to Pan-Arab security.

The emergency session sources reported that Mr. 'Aziz silenced the Syrian regime foreign minister who was unable to give replies on clear-cut indications confirming his regime complicity with enemies of the Arab nation and standing in one trench with the Iranian regime and Zionism for perplexing the Arab nation and sabotage her solidarity to realize cheap gains through which it could blackmail the Arab nation. [sentence as received]

The sources further expounded that voice of the Syrian regime foreign minister inside the session was not an Arab voice but rather a Persian voice vainly worked to justify Iranian aggression on Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia a matter that urged several heads of Arab delegations to confront his justifications and thus was isolated.

The session is considered one of the most important sessions held by the Arab League for it has laid down the sound bases for an effective and serious Arab move towards breaking off relations with the Iranian regime coupled with an international move for imposing military and economic sanctions that would prevent the Iranian regime from carrying on it aggression and recklessness.

OPEC Price, Production Committees To Meet 7 Sep

LD260852 Vienna OPECNA in English
1633 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Vienna, 25 Aug 87 (OPECNA) — The two OPEC ministerial committees established by the last conference meeting are to meet here on 7 September, an official of the OPEC Secretariat disclosed today.

At the June meeting, a committee of three ministers — comprising the oil ministers of Nigeria, Indonesia and Venezuela — was established 'to undertake visits to member countries in order to motivate them to comply with the terms of the agreement' on production and price.

A second committee — made up of the oil ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela — was also established 'to monitor the price evolution in the market in relation to the OPEC official prices in order to secure price stability around the OPEC price structure'.

The OPEC official told OPECNA that the committees were being convened by OPEC conference President Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman as immediate measures to ensure 'strict adherence' by member countries to agreed national production levels and OPEC's overall ceiling in order to counter 'speculation-motivated media reports'.

The official added that both the OPEC Secretariat and the marketing representatives from member countries stationed in Vienna, had thoroughly examined recent trade reports on OPEC production and found them exaggerated.

Citing data provided directly to the Secretariat, the official noted that during July, there had been 'some increases in the production of some member countries, mainly in the Gulf region'.

'These increases, including that in the production of Iraq, not signatory to the OPEC agreement of December 1986, raised total OPEC production above the agreed ceiling during the month', the official added.

He said the increases 'may have been the result of exceptional circumstances beyond OPEC's control', adding that total OPEC production in July was 'above the overall ceiling of 16.6 million b/d agreed upon for the third quarter of this year'.

The scheduled meeting of the five oil ministers would devise 'ways and means of offsetting undesirable short run fluctuations' in oil prices, the official stated.

Ibrahimi, Libyan Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD242018 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, today received Sa'd Mustafa Majbar, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Algiers, at the headquarters of his ministry.

This meeting provided an opportunity to study the development of relations of cooperation between Algeria and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, as well as the current regional situation.

Mali President Arrives for Private Visit 18 Aug

LD190858 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, 19 Aug (APS) — Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali, arrived in Algiers yesterday on a private visit. He was welcomed by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN.

Meets With Bendjedid

LD240110 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Political talks took place between Brother Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the FLN party, and Mr Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali at the presidential residence this evening.

During these talks, the two presidents reviewed the development of existing bilateral relations, as well as issues of mutual interest.

Following the talks, President Bendjedid hosted a dinner banquet in honor of President Moussa Traore, which was attended by Politburo members Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, and Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the foreign minister.

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives for Talks 25 Aug

LD252329 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general of the Armed Forces, arrived in Algiers this afternoon on an official 1-week visit at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the party.

Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi and a number of Politburo members, government officials, senior officers of the National People's Army, and the ambassadors of the two countries were on hand to welcome the prince at Houari Boumedienne International Airport.

In the VIP lounge, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud expressed his happiness at being in Algeria, the land of jihad, struggle, and sacrifice. He stressed the significance of the talks he will have with Algerian officials,led by President Chadli Bendjedid. He said that this visit is a continuation of the one made by the custodian of the two holy mosques.

With regard to the possibility of holding an Arab summit, the prince noted that the Algerian and Saudi views are completely identical. Both sides stress the importance of clarifying the Arab atmosphere before holding an Arab summit in order to ensure thatit will be successful.

When asked about bilateral cooperation, particularly in the field of development, his royal highness asserted that a number of agreements have been concluded between the two sister countries and that additional agreements will be concluded shortly.

Saudi Military Delegation Arrives on Visit

LD192216 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] A Saudi military delegation, led by the deputy commander of naval forces, has arrived in Algiers. The visit falls within the framework of efforts to strengthen Algerian-Saudi relations.

OAU Chairman Arrives for Talks With Habre

AB251624 Ndjamena Domestice Service in French 1330 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Excerpts] The president of Zambia and current chairman of the OAU arrived in Ndjamena this morning at 1030. The Zambian head of state is at the head of a 40-member delegation. [passage omitted] Kenneth David Kaunda, dressed in a light colored French suit and continuously waving his traditional white handkerchief, expressed his extreme pleasure at the warm welcome accorded him on his mission to Chad and Libya with a view to finding a final solution to the border dispute between them.

After greeting the officials present, the two heads of state held talks for about 10 minutes at the VIP lounge of the Ndjamena International Airport before the presidential cortege headed for the Villa de la Cotontchad, where Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda is lodging. [passage indistinct] the Zambian president, Kenneth David Kaunda, will go to the presidential palace to hold talks with the Chadian head of state. Of course, these talks will bear on the Chadian-Libyan conflict. [passage omitted]

Meets With Habre 25 Aug

AB252137 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Faya-Largeau was bombed today, just as our country was preparing to receive a distinguished guest, a peace emissary in the person of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who is also current chairman of the OAU. Mr Kaunda, who has begun a mission to Gabon, Chad, and Libya, within the framework of the search for a solution to the Chad-Libya conflict, held a long meeting this afternoon with President Hissein Habre. Moussa Dago has the report:

[Begin recording] The meeting between Hissein Habre and Kenneth Kaunda, which began this afternoon at 1500 at the Presidential Palace, ended at 1730. At this 90-minute meeting, all aspects of the Chad-Libya conflict, the focus of the Zambian head of state's visit to our country, were reviewed.

Also present at the meeting of the two heads of state were, on the Zambian side: Mr Kamonga, chairman of the Rural Development Committee; (Sam Bang), deputy minister of foreign affairs; Mr (Libelu) and Mr (Nianuyinu), both special advisers to the president of the Republic; and Mrs Ngaza, head of the Africa Department [as heard]. Present on the Chadian side were: (Mbayalbaye Ngaoundou Abdou), chairman of the [word indistinct]; Soumaila Mahamat, acting minister of foreign affairs; Ahmat Mossami, personal under secretary of the president of the Republic; (Camaran Barma), technical adviser on international relations; and [name indistinct], principal secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In light of the composition and size of the delegations and the length of the talks, it can be asserted that the conflict was examined fully. (?Needless to say), the current OAU chairman did not begin his tour to the three countries with a very detailed peace plan. As he asserted last week in Lusaka, the aim of his mission is to gather more information about the conflict and to gather the views of the parties in conflict, Chad and Libya. It will be recalled that President Kaunda was elected OAU chairman barely a month ago. His meetings with President Omar Bongo yesterday at Franceville and the Chadian head of state this afternoon were aimed, therefore, at gathering information. He will do the same tomorrow with the Libyan leader.

Although we can imagine what was said in Gabon and Chad, it is difficult to guess what the Libyan leader's reaction will be to President Kaunda's peace mission. (?One may note that) Libya is bombing northern Chad, as was the case today at Faya-Largeau. This bombing, which took place during President Kaunda's visit to our country, confirms the contempt Tripoli has for [words indistinct] chemical weapons. Let us hope that the Zambian president's wisdom and sound negotiating abilities will break through the wall of the Libyan colonel's intrasigence.

In any case, the Zambian head of state will leave Chad satisfied with the welcome he received, as he mentioned to President Hissein Habre this morning, and with the talks he held this afternoon. This is proof of the faith and hope that the Chadians have put in this peace mission by President Kaunda. Therefore, let us hope that Chadians will be up early tomorrow morning to see him off with the same enthusiasm and the same fervor as this morning. [end recording]

Departs for Algiers

AB260647 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Zambian President Kaunda, who arrived in our country yesterday at 1030, left Ndjamena this morning at 0645 for Algiers and then Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Ex-Minister Refutes Amnesty International Reports

AB251720 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] [Announcer] In connection with the disinformation campaign launched against our country, I am giving you the contents of the following dispatch:

Paris, 24 August, AFP — Mr Gali Ngothe Gatta was arrested at the beginning of the month of August in Ndjamena and is reported to be seriously ill in detention following mistreatment, it was stated today by the humanitarian organization, Amnesty International. In a communique published in Paris, Amnesty International recalls that before returning to Ndjamena in 1986 to become adviser to President Hissein Habre, Mr Gatta was one of the leaders of the Chadian Democratic Front, the FDT. Amnesty International is of the view that he may be a political detainee because of his nonviolent opposition to some aspects of the policies of the government of President Hissein Habre, unquote. [no opening quote as heard]

And here we are with the fiction published by Amnesty International and reported without discernment by AFP and RFI [Radio France Internationale in their 1345 newscast.

Now listen to the true story given by Mr Gali Ngothe Gatta himself, during an interview he granted a few minutes ago to our colleague, Hissein Ngargo. Mr Gali who, it must be recalled, is a special adviser at the presidency of the Republic, made it a point to come personally to the radio station to clarify things:

[Begin recording] [Gatta] I do not even need to say whether the story is true or false for the simple reason that since the beginning of August, there have been many public ceremonies, some of which were presided over by the president of the Republic. We had the national tree-planting week ceremony and [words indistinct] I was by the side of the president of the Republic during that ceremony. Apart from that, in my many extra-professional activities, the inhabitants of Ndjamena see me every day and they do not need to be told whether the reports are true or false. It is another form of war which can be placed within the context of psychological warfare. Such reports should not (?disrupt) the confident atmosphere we are trying to create in the country. I am not referring to the people of Ndjamena who know me and who see me working every day, but I am referring particularly to our compatriots in the provinces and those in foreign countries who closely follow developments of the serious situation prevailing in our country. For their sake, we should not try to fall into the trap of international organizations which only try to (?minimize) the serious situation prevailing in our country.

[Ngargo] Another thing, Mr Adviser, is that Amnesty International alleges that you are quietly opposed to some aspects of President Hissein Habre's policies. What do you have to say about that?

[Gatta] The president has a general policy concerning national integrity and unity, peace and reconciliation, and by appointing me as adviser, the president knows very well the level of contribution I can make toward these policies, and as an adviser, I cannot even imagine that there could be some aspects of those policies I do not share. My duty is to be by his side, get a general view ofhis daily duties, and make a general analysis of the situation that can help him as much as possible to make a good judgment. His daily activities as head of state do not allow him to see certain things [words indistinct] divergence of opinion on policies of this country is the preserve of the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] party and government, and it is quite normal that the head of state, as the supreme head of this country, could outline various aspects of a single issue in order to get a better analysis on that issue [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

JANA: 'Revolutionary' Factions Cable Al-Qadhdhafi

LD252339 Tripoli JANA in English 1456 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 25, *Jamahiryah News Agency* — The Chadian revolutionary factions asserted their determination to confront the U.S. and French military presence which defiles the Chadian sacred soil and uses it as a base to strike at Africa's progressive liberation forces.

In a cable to the leader of the revolution, the Chadian revolutionaries said: "At the time we are facing the most vicious imperialist campaigns in history, we confirm to you our determination to confront imperialist aggression of agent Habre following instructions from his masters, in the U.S. war department and in the Elysee Palace".

He added: "We confirm to the world that such aggressive imperialist manoeuvres will only make us more determined and firm and only make the remnants of the puppet regime more despiseful [as received] and defeatist. They will burn the bodies of the colonialists and the imperialists in the Chadian desert where they will be defeated facing the honest revolutionaries and fighters... We confirm to the world too that we are not those who welcome with roses the imperialists and the Zionists. We also are not those who sign in golden pens the accords of humiliation and shame. We receive them with iron and fire.

Sudan's Khalil Comments on Tunis Conference

NC251850 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA) — Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq Khalil arrived in Cairo this afternoon after attending the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis. His visit to Egypt will last 3 days.

On his arrival in Cairo, the Sudanese foreign minister said that the Arab foreign ministers conference had been successful. He stressed Iraq's right to defend its territory and Kuwait's right to safeguard its trade and economy.

Khalil stated that the conference had decided to keep its session open until 20 September in order to review Arab relations with Iran.If Iran does not change its stand, he added, then Arab relations with it will be frozen [tajmid]. He noted that the Arab foreign ministers' resolution mentioned Iran by name. He also said that Libya was the only Arab state that did not condemn Iran's part in the events in Mecca.

Muslim Brotherhood Statement on Mecca Incidents

PM251443 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 18 Aug 87 pp 1,2

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood has issued a statement expressing its opinion of the holy Mecca incidents. The text of this statement is as follows:

The Muslim Brotherhood follows events in the Islamic world with every concern and sensitivity. It is utterly saddened by any event that leads to division and conflict among Muslims; it is happy with any step that helps to unify views and unite the Islamic nation.

The Muslim Brotherhood does not consider any events individually. Indeed, its vision extends horizontally over the Islamic arena and in parallel with history. It has noticed that the Islamic world has long been under the impact of a scheme pursued by the enemies of Islam with a view to undermining Islam and Muslims, weakening and fragmenting them, and inciting wars among them.

In such a tense situation conditions are created which promote the emergence of erroneous attitudes. This in turn leads to bad reactions and the atmosphere becomes even more tense, and so on.

Among such attitudes were the recent Mecca incidents which claimed hundreds of Muslim lives in addition to hundreds of injured people — a matter that harmed every Muslim. The holy house of God should not have become a stage for political differences, especially in the hajj season during which more than 2 million Muslims gather to perform the religious duty of the hajjin peace, security, and spiritual happiness. It is known beforehand that any incitement among such a large gathering will result in the fall of many victims under the people's feet.

Islam, which we all accept, and its Koran, which we believe in, confirm that "God made his holy house a place of assembly for people and a place of safety." [Koranic verse] The Koran calls for preparing a tranquil atmosphere for pure worship. Therefore, it forbids obscenity, wickedness, and wrangling in the hajj. While the hajj is a general assembly for Muslims to discuss the affairs of their religion and life, it should not be used as a stage for demonstrations and the announcement of principles and political views in such a way.

The Muslim Brotherhood asks officials in both the Saudi and Iranian Governments to display self-control and to clear the atmosphere in order to eliminate all negative effects of this incident and avoid any serious complications that would benefit no one but the enemies of Islam.

The Muslim Brotherhood calls upon all governments and rulers in our Islamic countries to promptly embark on steps to eliminate differences, put an end to the Gulf war, unify views, eliminate the tense atmosphere, and respond to the words of Almighty God: And hold fast all together by the rope of God (which he stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves. And remember with gratitude God's favor on you, for ye were enemies and he joined your hearts in love, so that by his grace ye became brethren. [Koranic verse]

While the enemies of Islam are lurking in wait for its nation and hatching plots and schemes in order to exhaust its economic and human resources by stirring up racist and sectarian trends, the duty of Muslims is to thwart the enemies' plots by rallying around what is indisputable in God's book and the sunna of the prophet, peace be upon him.

May God purify intentions and unite Muslims behind a unified stand.

Malian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo 25 Aug

NC252034 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA) — Malian Foreign Minister Modibo Keita arrived in Cairo from Jeddah tonight for a 1-day visit to Egypt. He will leave for Algiers tomorrow.

Keita was met at the airport by Malian Embassy staff.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Senegal President's Adviser

LD252209 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Aug (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received the adviser of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, who handed him a written message.

Palestinian Liberation Officials Visit Tripoli

Meet With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD241428 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Ahmad Jibril, the PFLP-GC secretary general, 'Isam al-Qadi, the secretary general of the Popular Vanguards of the War of Liberation -- Al-Sa'iqah, and Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement — Fatah Uprising.

Jabir Receives Leaders

LD252236 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Aug (JANA) — Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Arab Libyan Armed Forces, has received Brother Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Palestinian Fatah National Liberation Movement; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC; and 'Isam al-Qadi,secretary general of the Popular Vanguards of the War of Liberation -- Al-Sa'iqah.

Algerian Deputy Chief of Staff Arrives 24 Aug

LD242023 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Brigadier General Khaled Nezzar, deputy chief of staff of the Algerian National People's Army, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Begins Talks

LD252318 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Aug (JANA) — Libyan Arab-Algerian talks started in Tripoli yesterday evening. The meeting was attended for Libya by [name indistinct], chief of staff of the Air Defense Forces, and for Algeria by Brigadier General Khalid Nezzar, deputy chief of staff of the Algerian Armed Forces.

The meeting was also attended by a number of officers from the Libyan Arab and Algerian Armed Forces.

Departs 25 Aug

LD252324 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Aug (JANA) — Brigadier General Khaled Nezzar, deputy chief of staff of the Algerian Armed Forces, left Tripoli this evening after concluding his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

SPLA Commander Releases 1 UK, 3 U.S. Nationals

EA251449 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The chairman and commander in chief of SPLM/SPLA, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, issued an order on 21 August 1987 for the release of three American nationals and a British citizen that were caught in cross fire in Mundri in Western Equatoria.

Radio SPLA learned that the decision was taken in response to a personal letter from the former American President, Mr Jimmy Carter, an appeal from the Kenyan Government to facilitate the release, and an appeal from the American Embassies in Nairobi and Addis Ababa.

Commenting on the incident, the official spokesman of the SPLA/SPLA Political Military High Command told Radio SPLA that the release was made because of this appeal and the hostages' own innocence. They are certainly not involved in the conflict in the Sudan: Moreover, the work they were doing in the Sudan was of a humanitarian nature that did not help enemy military operations in any way. The spokesman said that they cannot be described as SPLA hostages, but rather as hostages of the situation. They are Stephen Anderson, Catherine Taylor, Father Mark Nikkel, and Heather Sinclair.

The spokesman elaborated that the four had to walk the long distances they did for their own safety. If the SPLA had released them to some government-held town in Western Equatoria, the Khartoum government could have brought harm on them and blamed it on the SPLA, or the army could have claimed that they released them by force as they did when the SPLM/SPLA released the [word indistinct] nuns into Juba town last year.

The movement wanted to release them through Zaire, but the Khartoum army blocked routes to intercept them, and fighting might have been disastrous to the safety of the foreigners.

The four foreigners were picked up from Pibor this morning, August 25 1987, by a small Cessna plane, and released through Kenya.

The SPLA High Command thanked the Kenyan Government for this humanitarian assistance of facilitating their release.

The commander in chief of the SPLA wishes the released foreigners speedy recovery from fatigue of their long journey, and assures them that should they in the future wish to continue their work in southern Sudan behind the SPLA lines, they would be most welcome.

NIF Agrees To Negotiate National Government Issue

JN261015 Khartoum SUNA in English 0942 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 26 (SUNA) — The National Islamic Front (NIF) has agreed in principle to negotiate the issue of national government proposed to be formed following the collapse of the coalition between the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the Al-Ummah Party of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi end of last week.

NIF Secretary for Political Affairs Dr. 'Ali al-Haj, told the NIF paper *Al-Rayah* that a written answer on the view of the party would be handed to the officials in the DUP and Al-Ummah tomorrow.

He pointed that the NIF which has been contacted by both parties in view of forming the national government, will take into account the reasons behind the failure of the coalition in the past two years.

He said copies of the written message will be submitted to south Sudan political parties.

The NIF will next Saturday hold a press conference on its view and preconditions for the said national governemnt, he said.

Opposition Talks in Addis Ababa Conclude

EA251753 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 0930 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The talks between the SPLM, the Sudanese African parties, and Anyanya-II, which were held 20-25 August [as heard], ended at the Ghion Hotel yesterday [as heard] with the issuing of a joint statement entitled "The Addis Ababa Peace Forum." The meeting concluded with speeches of satisfaction from representatives of the three organizations and a directive from SPLM Chairman Dr John Garang. Reporter Darios Modi was there and has sent the following telephone report:

[Modi] In a statement issued on the occasion, the participants in the meeting did not pass without mentioning the conspiracy of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's dictatorial government and external interventionist forces to suppress the liberaton movements' struggle for peace, social justice, and democracy in Sudan. The joint statement noted that the 1986 Koka Declaration is an important basis for solving the country's problems and added that political forces in the country must exert the necessary pressure on the Sudanese Government to accept and implement the declaration.

In his closing speech, SPLM leader Dr John Garang expressed his admiration for the unreserved effort of Sudan's Council of Churches for the meeting and added that the participants of the meeting must relentlessly struggle for the implementation of the joint statement and resolution.

Dr John Garang went on to say that as Sudan is a country of many nationalities, the religion of only one nationality should not dominate the others. He added that the struggle to create a new Sudan in which justice, peace, and democracy prevails must be intensified more than ever.

In conclusion, Dr Garang said that if the government in power is not willing to cooperate with the SPLM and the various political parties which participated in the talks to free Sudan from its problems and backwardness, the alternative is to strengthen the internal movement in Sudan and intensify the armed struggle.

Joint Statement Issued

EA251802 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] We now present a joint statement by the Sudan African parties, the SPLM-SPLA, and Anyanya-II.

The Addis Ababa peace forum: Theme — Struggle, Peace, and Democracy. A joint statement by the Sudan African parties, the SPLM-SPLA, and Anyanya-II.

In view of the rapidly deteriorating political situation in our country, which is causing unprecedented threat to its stability and the very survival of the Sudanese people as a whole,

And whereas the Sudan African parties, the National Alliance for Salvation of the Country, and the SPLM-SPLA had initiated peace dialogues in our country in 1985-1986,

And aware of the Sudan Government's bid to achieve a military solution and thereby obstructing such initiatives,

We, the delegates representing the Sudan African parties, the SPLM-SPLA, and Anyanya-II, meeting in the capital of socialist Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, from 19 to 23 August 1987 [as heard], consider it our cardinal duty to make the following statement:

1. As patriotic forces struggling to restore our national independence, peace, democracy, and social justice, and inspired by the revolutionary traditions of our people borne of their heroic struggle against their oppressors, we (?singularly) oppose the undemocratic rule of the sectarian traditional parties and any gross act of foreign intervention in our country's internal affairs, and the flagrant threat posed by Al-Sadiq's government to exterminate the struggling Sudanese people.

2. As long as the Sudan Government continues to ignore prerequisite for the holding of the proposed national constitutional conference as stipulated in the Koka Dam Declaration, it will be impossible to achieve permanent peace and democracy in our country.

3. We firmly reiterate our support for the Koka Dam Declaration as the basis for solving our national problems. We therefore urge all political forces in the country to bring pressure to bear on the Sudan Government to immediately implement the terms of the Koka Declaration.

4. We are also absolutely convinced that given the present grave situation, the parties concerned shall relentlessly strive to hold democratic dialogue with all Sudanese political forces in order to arrive at a lasting solution to our national problems.

5. In view of the impending famine resulting from this year's severe drought in most parts of the south, the parties concerned urge the humanitarian wing of the Sudan Government, the SRRA [Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association], and the international relief organization to consult and organize relief and rehabilitation assistance to reach the affected population whether in the countryside or in the towns.

6. Finally, we wholeheartedly appreciate the efforts made by the Sudan Council of Churches, SCC, in organizing this successful meeting.

Signed in Addis Ababa, 24th day of August, 1987 by:

1. Mr Eliaba James Surur, chairman, Sudan African parties delegation

2. Lieutenant Colonel William Nyuan Bany, chief of Staff, SPLA forces, member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command, and leader of the SPLM-SPLA delegation

3. Lieutenant Colonel David (Madib) Deng, leader of the Anyanya-II delegation.

SPLM Spokesman Issues Warning to Foreigners

EA251456 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The SPLM/SPLA official spokesman has repeated today the movement's earlier warnings to foreigners working in war zone No 1 and the areas of southern Kordofan and southern Blue Nile without SPLA authorization to evacuate for their own safety.

The spokesman also said that the airspace over southern Kordofan and southern Blue Nile would as well remain closed to all air traffic that is not authorized by the Movement.

Islamic Fundamentalists Demonstrate, To Be Tried

MTI Organizes Demonstration

NC201646 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug 20 (AFP) — Police used tear gas to disperse a demonstration by several dozen Islamic fundamentalists in central Tunis on Thursday, cutting off streets in the city's shopping area and arresting several demonstrators.

The demonstrators threw stones and blocked streets with cars to impede the arrival of police reinforcements, witnesses said.

An anonymous caller to an international news agency said the demonstration had been organised by the opposition Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI). It was the first public manifestation by the MTI since four bombings in tourist hotels south of Tunis injured 13 people, one of them seriously, on August 2.

Responsibility for the bombings was claimed by the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad movement in Paris, but the authorities here have attributed the explosions to the MTI, which has however continued to deny responsibility.

The Tunisian authorities have accused the MTI of setting up "a Khomeynist (from the name of the Iranian leader) network in the pay of Tehran intending to overthrow the government".

MTI Members To Stand Trial

NC251736 Paris AFP in English 1721 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug 25 (AFP) — Some 80 Tunisian Islamic fundamentalists accused of attempting to overthrow the government in collusion with Iran will go on trial before the State Security Court here Thursday, defence lawyers said Tuesday.

Most of the defendants are leaders and activists of the opposition fundamentalist Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI) including its leader Rashid Ghannounchi, who was arrested here on March 9.

Fifty of the accused, who face the death sentence if found guilty, are now in jail here, while the other 30, considered as fugitives, will be judged in their absence.

A phone caller to Western news agencies claiming to speak for the MTI said that a demonstration in central Tunis on Tuesday by several dozen fundamentalists chanting anti-government slogans, was in protest at the trial.

Police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators, who replied by hurling stones before scattering. There have been sporadic demonstrations by fundamentalists here since May.

MTI Demonstrators Protest Trial

NC251752 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug 25 (AFP) — Armed police in riot gear used tear gas to break up a demonstration in central Tunis on Tuesday by several dozen Islamic fundamentalists chanting anti-government slogans.

Demonstrators who also shouted "Allah Akhbar" (God is the greatest), replied by hurling stones before scattering.

An unknown number of people were arrested.

Shortly beforehand, a phone caller to Western press agencies, claiming to speak on behalf of the opposition Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), said the demonstration was in protest at the trial of MTI leaders and activists due to open before the state security court here at the end of the week.

Uniformed police who broke up the demonstration were accompanied by young men in civilian dress, believed to be members of vigilants committees set up in the past few weeks by the ruling party.

There have been sporadic demonstrations by fundamentalists here since May.

BAHRAIN

Jordanian Foreign Minister Meets With Amir 26 Aug

JN260800 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Manama, 26 Aug (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri here this morning. The Jordanian minister arrived in Manama early today. The talks dealt with bilateral relations, developments in the Arab arena, and the results of the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meetings which were concluded in Tunis yesterday.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah attended the meeting.

Ends Visit, Departs

JN260901 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Manama, 26 Aug (WAKH) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Manama today following a short visit to Bahrain. He was seen off by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, and 'Adil Suwaydan, Jordanian charge d'affaires to Bahrain.

Al-Masri arrived in Manama early today on his way home from Tunis.

KUWAIT

Shaykh Sabah Returns, Comments on League Resolution

LD260820 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0702 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 26 Aug (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned at dawn today from Tunis after leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the Arab League emergency council meeting and making a stopover in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told KUNA that "the crises has been given the necessary treatment in the form of a comprehensive resolution issued by the Council which expressed, in many parts of it, backing for Kuwait in the measures it has taken to protect its security and safety of its territories, and to safeguard its commercial and economic interests." [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah added: "We hope this resolution will be implemented so that we can continue our collective march and face up to the crossroad being confronted by our Arab nation, and march toward positions nearer to comprehensiveness in our dealings and develop a more unified attitude in confronting our fateful issues." [passage omitted]

OMAN

Soviet Source Cited on Opening of Embassy

LD261030 Kuwait KUNA in English 0912 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow, Aug 26 (KUNA) — A Soviet diplomatic mission has flown to the Sultanate of Oman to arrange for the opening there of a Soviet Embassy, according to a senior Soviet diplomatic source Wednesday.

The source told KUNA that the Soviet mission in Muscat will be at the charge d'affaires level, but he noted that the representation will be promoted, later in the year, to ambassadorial level.

The diplomat added that Soviet authorities have initiated contacts with their Omani counterpart to appoint a resident ambassador to Oman.

The source, meanwhile, disclosed that the Omani Government has recently appointed a resident ambassador in Moscow Najjar Muhammad Ali.

Ambassador Ali, the diplomat pointed out, is current envoy in Bonn, and he is due to arrive in Moscow in December.

Oman and the Soviet Union established diplomatic ties in September 1985, and had since then their ambassadors to Jordan acting as non-resident envoys.

Oman became the third Arab Gulf state, after Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, to forge diplomatic ties with Moscow.

Minister Comments on Tunis Arab League Session

JN260840 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0744 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 26 Aug (WAKH) — Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has asserted that there was a great deal of political bargaining at the Arab foreign ministers conference. He said that such political bargaining was part of the stands of member states toward critical events in the Gulf, particularly the Iraq-Iran war and shipping matters.

In a statement published today in the Omani paper *'Uman* he said that the Arab summit, which has been deferred since 1983, will not be held unless all aspects of the Arab situation are studied and favorable conditions for convening the summit are created.

In answer to a question on GCC efforts in the coming period to halt the Iraqi-Iran war, the Omani minister said: "Tangible efforts are being made by the UN secretary general who is holding contacts with both Iraq and Iran. UN Security Council members are holding regular consultations. The GCC has been making and continues to make efforts to end the destructive war between the two Muslim neighbors, and is thus bolstering international efforts to implement Resolution 598."

PDRY

Nu'man Receives PRC Foreign Aid Official

EA290955 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has expressed high appreciation for the assistance the PRC renders to our country. He said relations between the two countries were conducted on the basis of common interest, and at a steady and expanding pace to the benefits of the peoples of the two friendly countries.

The brother chairman of the Council of Ministers was speaking at a meeting in his office this evening with a delegation of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade led by Comrade (Chang Jingxin), deputy director of the ministry's Foreign Aid Department. The prime minister heard a detailed briefing from the delegation on the outcome of its talks with the officials of the Ministry of Construction and Housing, and the preparations for work on the military road between (Labus) and the closed military sports hall.

The Chinese delegation's visit to our country follows the signing of protocol between the PDRY and the PRC during a visit by an official delegation from Democratic Yemen to People's China in March this year.

SAUDI ARABIA

Envoy to Kuwait Interviewed on Gulf Issues

LD251051 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0901 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Aug (KUNA) — Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sudayri, the Saudi ambassador to Kuwait, has reiterated his country's understanding and support of all the steps taken by sister Kuwait to protect its economic interests and defend itself against external threats in the present crucial conditions the Gulf region has been witnessing as a result of the Iraq-Iran war.

He called on all the Arab Gulf countries to be alert and on guard for fear of amy military surprises Iran might be contemplating against them with a view to shaking their security and stability from within and creating disturbances.

In an interview with the newspaper *Al-Siyasah* of Kuwait, published today, the Saudi ambassador said: "Undoubtedly, Kuwait is capable of deciding what is best for itself in the present crucial times. The GCC member countries generally support Kuwait in all the steps it takes and deems fit to protect its interests, oil installations, and other assets from outside aggressions."

Replying to a question about an alternative plan for transporting Kuwaiti oil via a pipeline across Saudi territory following Iran's intensification of attacks on tankers sailing through the Gulf and to what extent this plan has developed, Ambassador al-Sudayri expressed his belief that this matter has been studied and put forward to the responsible GCC officials to draw up the required plan. However, he denied that he knows anything about when such a plan will be put into effect.

Replying to the paper's question as to whether there are preparations and a general state of alert in all the region's armies to confront any Iranian aggression in light of the continuous threats Kuwait receives from Iran, Ambassador al-Sudayri expressed his hope that the scope of the war between the two warring countries, Iraq and Iran, will not widen. On the other hand, he warned of the military surprises the Iranians might be plotting against the region's states and peoples, saying: "We must examine matters deeply in light of our concepts and political philosophy and know for certain whether this concerns primarily the GCC states and is directed against them, a matter which would require us to protect our countries and interests against any external aggression."

Ambassador al-Sudayri then spoke about the problem of the sea mines laid in the Gulf waters saying: "There are thorny hands behind the mine-laying operations in the Arabian Gulf waters aimed at spreading rumors and creating instability." He described this action as incompatible with the interests of the entire region adding: "We all have to put an end to such repeated attacks in the Arabian Gulf waters" stressing that the Gulf territorial waters are presently under the supervision of joint naval forces from the states in the region.

Asked about the role of the Saudi early warning planes, the AWACS, in the Gulf war, the Saudi ambassador said that "the AWACS planes have been performing the tasks for which the Kingdom originally brought them. But they cannot be confined to this, for they have a major role to play and they operate within the framework of specific programs complementing the Gulf forces in the region."

Asked if there are any other plans he expects to take place in the light of Iran's rejection of the recent UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to the war with Iraq, Ambassador al-Sudayri said: "The efforts to stop the bleeding have not ceased." He expressed his hope that Iran will respond to all the mediations aimed at ending the war and bringing security and stability to the region.

Referring to the repeated Iranian claims that the Iranian embassy in Riyadh was placed under seige, the Saudi ambassador denied these claims describing them "as wrong and completely untrue." He added that "the Iranian Embassy in the Kingdom continues to enjoy full protection in accordance with diplomatic usage."

He described the actions committed by the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca during the pilgrimage season as being contrary to the teachings of Islam and affirmed that his country will not permit any repetition of such actions in the future.

He also criticized the calls by some quarters for the "internationalization" of the two holy mosques and said that those who make these calls want to support Iran and help it to achieve its objectives.

Riyadh Views Arab League Ministerial Meeting
LD251954 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Commentary by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Muhanna: "Spotlight on the News"]

[Text] It seems that reaching decisive results through the Arab League ministerial council is a matter shrouded with difficulty. The Arab foreign ministers have begun to stipulate hard conditions in return for the adoption of a final resolution by their conference, which has entered its third day. His royal highness the Saudi foreign minister, Prince al-Faysal, began his speech by talking about the purpose for which the meeting was called, the resolution that should be discussed by the Arab ministers in Tunisia, and about what the ministers should do to ensure the inevitable conclusion of this serious conference.

The Iraq-Iran war is not one of days or months. It has been going on for 7 years and has squandered both countries' assets. The war should be viewed with care for the public interest of the two affected countries and for the Arab region, which lies in the vicinity of that war's sparks.

However, discussions at the conference did not touch on that general aspect and did not take into consideration the hundreds of thousands of killed and wounded and the tens of thousands of families that have lost their bread winners. The discussions did not cover finding ways to put an end to the continued social tragedies that have befallen the peoples of both countries because of Iran's obduracy and its insistence on continuing its aggression. The discussions have centered on one aspect, which is not of any importance to the Arab countries: Who started the war, Iraq or Iran?

The goal of Arab unity for which the Arab League was founded is mere a dream that cannot be trusted. Hence, it is not strange to see the meeting hall resound with the Arab ministers' conflicting views. It is not strange that the emergency ministerial conference appears dead.

The Arab ministers tackled a resolution during their deliberations yesterday calling for an emergency Arab summit conference to be held any place the leaders agree on. This is not a new idea. Voices had risen before, calling for such a summit. But the road to it was extremely difficult.

The transgression on the holy mosque is no simple matter. If the Iranians do not respect Islamic holy places or the high esteem in which the holy mosque is placed in the hearts of all Muslims, then Mecca and Medina mean nothing to the Iranians. For they spend their religious picnics in an atmosphere fraught with grudges. What they carry with them confirms that to them the pilgrimage is no more than an opportunity to spread anarchy.

There are religious places to which only Iranians go. They are Qom and Mashhad Rizeh. They perform their pilgrimages at Najaf and Karbala'. But no political calls or demonstrations denouncing the United States or USSR have ever taken place. Indeed, their rites there centered on eulogizing the prophet's family and wailing for [word indistinct].

None of this was discussed at the Arab League ministerial conference. They treated it in a manner that enables man to show his true grit and to depict his positive feelings. Had that event been discussed, new recommendations would have been made, and the Arabs would have come to realize they can hold meetings and conferences that can have great benefit.

The war between Iraq and Iran has dimensions that political ministers cannot discuss. It demands scientific research, through which a result could be reached that would form a working paper for every ministerial conference or Arab summit. The issue regarding this war is not who started it. The issues are who benefits from it, who reaps the fruit of blood being shed and, consequently, what is the philosophy on which Iran bases its desire to continue the war, and what is the philosophy on which Iraq bases its desire to halt the bloodbath.

We cannot imagine Iran is strong after 7 years of war. We cannot say that Iraq has not been affected by the war. The two countries must have different philosophies, and the Arab ministers should try to find that out before beginning their discussions.

The Iranians' aggression in Mecca is only an extension of their desire to continue their war with the Arabs through the Iraqi front. The question is: Can the Arab ministers and leaders come up with positive results in the current or future meetings? This will be shown as a result of the Arab League ministerial meeting that is about to end.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Merchant Ship Sinks off Dubai Coast 25 Aug
JN260855 Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Dubayy, 26 Aug (QNA) — A responsible source in the coast guard at Jabal 'Ali Port in Dubai has said that the merchant ship *Akari* belonging to the EKO [name as received] company in the Amirate of 'Ajman sank off the coast of Jabal 'Ali Port yesterday. The source added that there were no reports of casualties.

In a statement to the newspaper *Al-Bayan* published here today, the source said that the ship began sinking at 1400 yesterday, UAE local time, 16 miles from Jabal 'Ali Port. The source added that the authorities tried to save the ship but it sank completely a mile from the port's wave breaker.

The source pointed out that the ship was carrying 2,000 tons of fuel oil which had begun to leak out thereby posing a danger to the Dubai [name as received] aluminum factory and the Dubayy Electricity Company. The source said that investigations are under way to discover the cause of the sinking.

Heir Apparent Meets Iranian Presidential Envoy
NC250616 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Lavasani, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department for Arab

and African Countries and special envoy of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to regional countries, who arrived in Abu Dhabi from Qatar yesterday, has met with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

During this meeting, which was also attended by the UAE deputy foreign minister and the Iranian ambassador, the sensitive situation in the Persian Gulf, the world of Islam, and matters of mutual interest were discussed, with both sides emphasizing the need to consolidate bilateral relations

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Official Leaves for Tunis Information Meeting

JN251922 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali ibn 'Ali Sabra, deputy minister of information and culture, left for Tunis this morning. He is leading our country's delegation to the meetings of the 22d session of the Arab Information Ministers Council which will be held in Tunis 27-28 August.

In a statement to *Saba' News Agency*, Brother Sabra explained that the Arab Information Ministers Council will discuss a number of Arab media topics. Subjects to be discussed include the use of the Arab space network in exchanging programs and information between the Arab countries and the outside world. Another topic will be support for the information and cultural action in the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of an Arab news agency.

'Aziz Returns From Arab League Meeting in Tunis
JN260856 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad at dawn today after taking part in the emergency session of the Arab League Council which ended in Tunis yesterday. The session issued a statement affirming the solidarity of the Arab countries with Iraq in its just battle to defend its land. The statement urged the Security Council to adopt the necessary measures to implement Resolution 598 which calls for an immediate cease-fire and a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Iran. The statement also condemned the Iranian riots and acts of sabotage during the pilgrimage season and voiced solidarity with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait against any aggression.

Officials Laud Resolutions
JN261437 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. During the meeting, the conferees assessed the results of the Arab League Council emergency session which convened in Tunis.

The conferees praised the positive results attained by the Arab League Council. These results confirmed the sound analysis that the Iranian regime is an aggressive, expansionist, rancorous, and evil regime which has targeted Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the entire Arab homeland and nation.

President Saddam Husayn and the RCC and Regional Command members expressed satisfaction with the Arab League's solidarity with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia regarding the rancorous Iranian regime's threats and aggression. They also expressed satisfaction with the Arab League's solidarity with Iraq in its legitimate defense of its sovereignty and security against the Iranian enemy.

They also affirmed that Iraq's policy always considers Iraqi national security to be an indivisible part of pan- Arab security, and that Iraq has substantiated this policy through practical stands under all circumstances.

Arab Gulf states are currently being exposed to certain circumstances and threats. In light of this fact, Iraq in particular considers its national security an integral part of the security of the brothers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. What threatens or harms them also threatens and harms Iraq. Therefore, Iraq firmly stands by their side by all means.

The conferees called on the Arab countries to further toughen the joint Arab stand against the Iranian aggression. This aggression is exacerbating with the passage of time and can only be deterred by a solid Arab stand. The conferees also stressed the need to completely boycott this regime so that it will abandon its hostile policy, and stop its aggression and threats against Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the other Arab Gulf states. The conferees also said this boycott is necessary to get Iran to accept a comprehensive and lasting peace with Iraq in accordance with Security Council Resolution No 598.

Communique No 2,794 Details 24-25 Aug Combat
JN251621 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,794 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 August]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on Islamic New Year] Following are the activities of our units for last night and today:

1. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed a number of enemy personnel, destroyed one mortar gun and one observation post, and blew up three different vehicles.

2. Three enemy personnel were killed, five others were wounded, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. One enemy observation post was destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

3. One enemy soldier was killed and one enemy observation post was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. One infantry position was also destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 August 1987

Spokesman Refutes Iranian Claims on Fighting
JN261109 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has refuted Iranian allegations on combat operations on bordering areas in the governates of Kirkuk, Al-Sulaymaniyah, and Irbil, and the Dukan area.

In a statement to INA a short while ago, the spokesman said that during the past 2 days, the Iranians disseminated a series of lies which were fabricated in the anterooms of the Iranian information department, and which are baseless and completely untrue.

The spokesman added: We would like to remind public opinion inside and outside Iran that such lies which claim the occupation of tens of kilometers and even sometimes hundreds of kilometers of the bordering areas, and the infliction of heavy losses on the Iraqi side, have been used by the Iranian regime for several years. The spokesman said that if these claims were true they would become clear. However, the Iranians are completely unable to prove their allegations. In fact, their statements are self-contradictory. All we want the Iranians to do is to calculate the areas which they claim to have occupied, including the cities and villages, and they will realize that their regime lies continuously, that it always forgets its lies, and that the alleged areas exceed the entire area of Iraq.

The spokesman affirmed that the Iraqi forces in the northern region are in complete control of our international border and are lying in wait for any hostile move. He said security and peace

prevail in this area and our Kurdish citizens are leading a normal life. He said Kurdish fighters are standing in the front line trench along with their Arab brothers as an impregnable dam in the face of all the Iranian regime's attempts which have all failed miserably.

The spokesman noted that the area is open to all the media correspondents and that we are not the kind of people who conceal things from their people. The spokesman affirmed that the Iranian Government's policy of fabricating lies has become exposed and consequently their media will not find any one whowill listen to them. We challenge them to prove anything that they have said with any tangible evidence. He explained that theIranian rulers' claims and lies are all that is left for Iran's defeated and failed rulers whose statements have become the focus or ridicule by the world at large.

[Dated] 26 August 1987

Peres on Conference, Lavi, Jericho Missile

TA251744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres says Jordan has agreed to hold direct talks with Israel during the first week of an international peace conference. Peres was speaking this afternoon to overseas students at the Hebrew University, and our reporter David Ze'ev was there:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Peres claims there is a better atmosphere than ever before for an international peace conference because Jordan was not demanding any preconditions from Israel. In fact, he said, the Jordanians have now made a commitment of their own:

[Peres] For the first time, the Jordanians said that in the week of the international opening, they are ready to negotiate directly and in a bilateral manner with the State of Israel.

[Ze'ev] Peres said Jordan was insisting on an international framework to reduce the risk of its losing important political and financial support from the Arab world. Inevitably, Peres claimed, the peace process would have to work its way out over several stages, the first of which, he said, should be Israeli control over security matters in the administered territories, with Arab jurisdiction over local issues.

Fielding a question on the Lavi project, the foreign minister said he found it strange that the U.S. Government was now calling for the Lavi's cancellation, considering Washington has from the start had a very heavy involvement in the project.

[Peres] Yet I believe that we have to take into consideration the fact that the American Administration right now, and part of the American Congress, has expressed itself against the continuation of the Lavi project. It's a fact of life.

[Ze'ev] Asked about a report that Israel is developing a nuclear warhead for its Jericho missile, Peres said Israel must respond to the threats it faces in the region, and he said it is not the technology that poses a danger, but instead the political climate. As such, he called for a political solution that would reduce the need for the technology. [end recording]

Peres on Soviet Missiles, RSA, Regional Issues

TA260845 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] "Israel did not introduce any missiles into the Middle East," Foreign Minister Peres said yesterday, in response to a question about the development of the nuclear-capable Jericho II missile.

Speaking to students of the Hebrew University's School for Overseas Students, Peres added that "we are facing missiles," of all sorts, introduced by the Soviet Union into the region, and "we must make a major effort to meet this challenge."

Peres reiterated Israel's long-standing position that Israel would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the area and said that Israel favoured the establishment of a nuclear-free Mediterranean, which should be negotiated with the Arabs.

One of the students asked Peres what Israel was doing to solve the Palestinian problem. Peres said that "there is a Palestinian Diaspora, as there is a Jewish Diaspora," but that the core of the problem was the future of the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and Jordan. He said that Israel has recognized the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians and the need to solve the problem "in its various aspects."

There was widespread applause when one of the students asked Peres about Israeli-South African relations. Peres said that Israel would "never compromise with apartheid, which was contrary to Jewish philosophy and tradition. We shall try to do our best to end (the apartheid system)," he said. The question was how best to persuade the South African government to drop the policy.

Israel already adopted "many American and European measures" (sanctions) and would abide by the appropriate UN resolutions, said Peres. But Israel had to concern itself with the interest of a large South African Jewish community, and last week there was a major neo-nazi demonstration in South Africa, Peres noted.

Peres characterized India's policy toward Israel as "very cynical." He recalled a recent meeting with Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and his "lovely" wife, in which Gandhi had explained why India could not improve its relations with Israel -- the large Moslem Indian minority, the problem of good relations with Moslem states, and so on. Peres said he saw little hope of a change in Israeli-Indian relations in the forseeable fudure.

As to China, "we're trying hard, but things are moving very slowly."

Regarding the prospects for an international conference on Middle East peace, Peres said: "We need peace badly." He cited the "demographic clock running against us" and Jordan's King Husayn's current readiness to negotiate. Peres also spoke in favour of the introduction of "referendums" in which the Israeli public could vote and decide directly on major issues.

Peres said that in talks with Jordan it was likely that a settlement would have to be reached in two stages. As a first stage, there would have to be an interim, functional solution, in which the Arabs and Israel would "share" governance of the West Bank with Israel in charge of security matters. Only afterwards would it perhaps be possible to reach a final territorial settlement, with agreed demarcation of frontiers.

When asked about Palestinian representation at peace talks, Peres noted that most Jordanians were Palestinians and no doubt some of the Jordanian representatives to such talks would be Palestinians. Otherwise, Palestinians could be represented by "mayors and dignitaries" from the West Bank, "authentic Palestinian leaders...not engaged in terror."

Nisim, Rabin Support New Peres Proposal on Lavi
TA261451 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1410 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] The vote on the Lavi project probably will be held by the Cabinet plenum on Sunday, but meanwhile the balance of power among the ministers seems to have changed. The defense and finance ministers now support Peres' plan for the future of the Lavi. Here is a report by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel:

Shim'on Peres has managed to overcome the highest hurdle on the road to obtaining Cabinet approval for his plan: the opposition of the finance and defense ministers. Peres promised Moshe Nisim that there is no intention of adding even one cent to the state budget. The development of IDF alternatives and advanced aircraft technologies will, in the future, be carried out at the expense of the budget currently earmarked for the Lavi. He promised Yitzhaq Rabin unequivocally that the Lavi will not be produced now or promised for the future.

Peres' draft proposal, which will be submitted to the Cabinet this Sunday, also fails to mention the controversial term Lavi- 2000. The draft proposal mentions vaguely that Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] will continue research projects for future aircraft.

This satisfies the demands presented by Nisim and Rabin over the last few weeks. Associates of the two ministers issued unofficial confirmations this afternoon that at the moment the two support Shim'on Peres' proposal.

On Sunday the foreign minister will offer the Cabinet a six-clause plan that will stipulate that the IAI will be allocated $100 million for the development of aircraft and the alternatives presented by the IDF. The Defense Ministry will undertake to ensure that the IAI keeps to the original 1987 budget, in shekels. Negotiations with the United States toward expanding Israel's part in producing parts for the F-16 fighter bomber in Israel, and negotiations over Israel's participation in the development of advanced F-16 aircraft for the 1990's, will also continue.

We have learned that in contacts held last week through Ambassador Thomas Pickering, the U.S. Administration provided its consent in principle to the Peres plan, so that if it is endorsed by the Cabinet, an Israeli delegation will leave for the United States to open negotiations with the various executive branches as well as with General Dynamics, the company that manufactures the F-16.

Therefore we are on the brink of a shift in the Cabinet debate on the Lavi aircraft, and we can see a realignment of forces with an emerging majority for the Peres proposal, which in fact means a scrapping of the Lavi project.

This morning the foreign minister presented his plan to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and it seems that he as well as most of the Likud ministers will oppose Peres' proposal and continue to support continued production of the Lavi according to its original plan.

Syrian Missile Found 'Intact' in Lebanon
TA261012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 26 AUG 87

[Text] A Syrian surface-to-air missile which did not explode was discovered in southern Lebanon. This has been reported by the Middle East Television network operating in the security strip. The broadcast said that the Soviet-made SAM-6 missile was found intact. Yesterday Syrian military sources told correspondents that their Army fired two missiles at Israeli reconnaissance planes flying over the eastern Al-Biqa' in Lebanon.

Nepalese UNIFIL Soldier Killed, 3 Wounded in Ambush
TA251628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] A Nepalese UN soldier has been killed and another three Nepalese soldiers wounded in an ambush near the village of Yatar in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the ambush was carried out by six people in civilian garb. Two of the wounded UN soldiers were operated on at UNIFIL's hospital in Al-Naqurah and their condition is reported as stable. The third soldier is reported to have sustained slight injuries.

Shamir Cites U.S. Pressure on Direct USSR Flights
TA251312 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The prime minister has said that Jewish organizations in the United States are pressuring the administration to oppose an arrangement for direct flights from the Soviet Union to Israel via Bucharest. Mr Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that in their talks with us, the Soviets are taking advantage of the pressure emanating from Washington.

The Knesset committee also dealt with the question of the Herodion water drilling. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister rejected claims that this drilling violates international agreements. He said this was just another case of our people joining our enemies to reinforce their arguments against us.

Romania Refuses Transit Role for Soviet Jews
TA250830 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
25 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Excerpt] The Romanian Government last week refused Prime Minister Shamir's request that it act as an intermediary with the Soviet Union to facilitate the flight of Soviet Jewish emigres through Romania to Israel, sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

The blunt Romanian position, Shamir told the Cabinet on Sunday, was that this was a matter for direct Israeli-Soviet and American-Soviet talks. Sources here suggested that this stance followed signals received from Moscow.

Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu would be willing to help if agreement was reached during direct negotiations with Soviets, Shamir said last night in a speech to the members of the United Jewish Appeal Prime Minister's Mission.

"Ceausescu is prepared to cooperate with us in facilitating direct flights for Soviet Jews to Israel via Bucharest," Shamir said. His attitude is not shared, I am sorry to say, by other leaders in the Soviet bloc.

"We must find a way to enable those Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union to do so by direct flights to Israel. We need your full support in our efforts to achieve such direct flights. There is no contradiction between this and their freedom of choice. Those who want to go to the U.S. or other countries to join their families can now apply for permission." [passage omitted]

Hungary To Announce Visa Offices 'Next Month'

TA260859 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Aug 87 p 2

["Exclusive" report by Sha'ul Tzadqa]

[Exerpt] London — Hungary will not resume full diplomatic relations with Israel. However, next month it will announce the opening of visa offices in Tel Aviv and Budapest.

This was said to *Ha'aretz* by a senior Hungarian source. According to him, there will be a considerable improvement in bilateral relations on a "cultural and humanitarian basis," similar to the "model of the relations between Poland and Israel." However, the source added: "We have to take others into consideration," hinting at the Soviet Union and the Arabs. [passage omitted]

'Secret' Likud-Tehiya Pact on Elections Disclosed

TA250903 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Aug 87 p 6

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] The secret payment made by the Likud to the Tehiya in exchange for the latter's agreement to remove its initiative for early elections was a commitment to establish between six to eight new settlements this year in addition to Avne Hefez and Hadar Betar.

Senior Tehiya activists revealed this secret for the first time yesterday to express their bitterness about the Likud leadership which in their opinion is not struggling as it should to implement the Likud commitment. [passage omitted]

Priest Says Waite in 'Reasonably Good Health'

NC251645 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Father Samir Habibi, who is close to Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, has stated that Waite is in reasonably good health and that he is being held in Beirut's southern suburb. He added that Waite may have been moved to the Ba'labakk mountains for a while for the sake of greater freedom of movement.

Lahd Command Says 2 SAM Missiles Land in South

NC260507 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
430 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The [Lahd] militias' command has stated that two SAM missiles landed in the area of Kafr Huna. Syrian military sources have confirmed that Syria fired two rockets at Israeli warplanes flying over eastern Al-Biqa' the day before yesterday. The sources added that the Israeli warplanes had been conducting reconnaissance flights over this strategic area.

Pro-'Arafat Official Killed in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp

NC260601 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] According to a security report from Sidon, Abu 'Ali Shahin, an official in the 'Arafat group, was assassinated by unidentified gunmen inside the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at 2330 last night. Intensive shooting followed for 10 minutes. Tension continues to reign in the camp as a result of the power struggle among pro-'Arafat men.

Said To Survive Shooting

NC261043 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tension prevails in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in the wake of an assassination attempt against Abu 'Ali Shahin, a Fatah political official, in an ambush inside the camp last night. Shahin and his companion custained various injuries.

Shahin and Zayd Wahbi, a Fatah official in Lebanon, were earlier summoned to Tunisia following the assassination of Rasim al-Ghul, the Force 17 security official, last week.

Birri, Junblatt Arrive in Damascus for Talks

NC250637 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 0500 GMT25 Aug 87

[Text] Intensive contacts are expected to begin in Damascus today, centering on Ministers Birri and Junblatt, who arrived in the Syrian capital last night. They will meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam before noon today.

Prominent nationalist sources have said that the discussions will focus on easing the tense atmosphere which has prevailed since the declaration of the Liberation and Unification Front. Two main issues are raised in this regard: First, civil administration, and second, the expanded presence of 'Arafat supporters east of Sidon. Without a clear and practical understanding of these two issues, the meeting involving Ministers Birri and Junblatt will be a mere formality that will not bring about the unification of nationalist efforts needed to confront impending deadlines.

The sources say that if differences regarding the situation east of Sidon are settled, a meeting of the Liberation and Unification Front and the PNSF will be held to formulate a practical plan and end the abnormal situation there. If the civil administration issue is also resolved, a meeting of the leaders of the Liberation and Unification Front will be held to formulate the Front's political and organizational structure and perhaps prepare for an anticipated national conference.

Lebanese Forces Urge Joint Support for Government

NC251651 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces Command has attributed the country's economic collapse to the absence of a political and, consequently, economic decisionmaking body with authority over the entire country. Damascus is responsible for this vacuum, which it has created by imposing a boycott and preventing officials from forming a new government, the Lebanese Forces said.

In a statement issued this evening, the Lebanese Forces accused Syria of instigating the boycott policy and preventing the formation of a government which could halt the economic collapse and the process of starvation and impoverishment. [passage omitted]

In the statement, the Lebanese Forces, on behalf of the Lebanese resistance and liberation movement, called on all the Lebanese people to rebel against the bitter situation in which they find themselves and join ranks in a unified resistance in order to drive the Syrian occupation army and other occupation forces out of every part of Lebanon. The Lebanese Forces declared that this is the only way to achieve a real solution for every aspect of the crisis.

The Lebanese Forces stated that the way to break out of the vicious circle is to form an independence government. The members of such a government would enjoy freedom of action, and the following program would be implemented:

1. A single political and military authority would be established to represent all of Lebanon, speak on its behalf, and assume all political, military, economic, and social responsibilities in order to guarantee the citizens' security and liberty.

2. All Lebanese Christian and Muslim resources would be mobilized in preparation for the battle to liberate every part of the country from all foreign armies and forces, using every means.

3. Foreign support for Lebanon would be solicited; the issue would be presented in all its aspects to international and Arab forums.

A government of independence is the first real step on the road to the salvation of the greater homeland, the statement concluded.

Egyptian Group Member Captured in Clash

JN240844 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] The Arabism's Egypt [Misr al-'Urubah] organization, which is opposed to the Egyptian regime and is based in Damascus, announced in a communique yesterday that it had participated in the attack on a South Lebanese Army patrol on 22 August and that one of its fighters — an Egyptian named 'Abdal-Rahman Wahbah — was captured in the Jabal al-Rayhani area of southern Lebanon.

Syrian Forces in Rashayya Estimated at 1 Brigade

NC251717 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] According to security reports from western al-Biqa', the Syrian forces have sent more military materiel to their forward positions in Rashayya al-Wadi. These reports say that approximately two battalions of infantrymen, together with armored vehicles, have been moved to Syrian positions facing the Israeli installations. The Syrian force there is now estimated at one brigade.

The Syrian force has started building fortifications and digging trenches as part of the necessary precautions to protect its vehicles and positions.

5 'Criminals' Executed for Bus 'Massacre'

JN240821 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — The death sentence was carried out early this morning against the five criminals who were recruited by the fascist Iraqi regime, who betrayed their people, and who perpetrated a massacre by blowing up public transport buses on 16 April 1986. Those criminal traitors are: Muwaffaq 'Abbas Shartah, 'Abd al-Wahhab Ibrahim Isma'il, Ahmad 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Akkam, Muhammad Hasan Salih, and Khalid Munir 'Adi.

The criminals carried out their massacre, killing and wounding 400 Syrian citizens, and then admitted before our people through the media organs and during their trial that the criminal fascist regime in Iraq recruited them, trained them, and planned their abominable crime. The Iraqi regime was not satisfied with killing tens of thousands of innocent Iraqi people, but extended the hand of crime and treason to the people of our steadfast country in the face of treason and aggression, implementing the orders of its imperialist and Israeli masters.

As the treacherous criminals receive just punishment for what they committed against our people, this people will be lying in wait for all future conspiracies. Soon the unjust assailants will know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

Commentary Says Iraq 'Responsible' for Gulf War

JN261414 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Station commentary]]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Arab foreign ministers have concluded their extraordinary meetings in Tunis. They did so provided that the meetings remain in session so that they can be resumed at the end of September. The Arab ministers discussed the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Gulf. It is useful for the Arabs to discuss the Gulf situation in the wake of recent events. This is particularly true in light of the intensified U.S. military naval presence and the serious dangers poses to the overall situation in the region and elsewhere. It is more useful for the Arabs to agree on a united stand. This agreement should stem from the pan-Arab strategic view and from the spirit of the Arab summits' resolutions. These resolutions state that the pan-Arab conflict is with the racist Zionist entity planted in Palestine. The expansionist schemes of this entity threaten all Arab states, as well as the present and future of the Arab nation.

The Iraq-Iran war was launched by the Iraqi regime against the Islamic revolution in Iran. Since its beginning, this war has been nothing more than a conflict to distract the Arabs from their pan-Arab battle against the Zionist enemy and its supporters, particularly U.S. imperialism. Regardless of statements concerning the developments and events of the war, the Iraqi regime is primarily responsible for what took place and is taking place. That regime embarked on an act which serves only the enemies of the Arab nation and those who covet its territory, rights, and resources.

Any objective assessment of the Arab nation's interest should conclude that fabricating an Arab-Iranian conflict does not serve the Arab nation. This is particularly true as the Islamic revolution in Iran uprooted the regime of the shah, who was an imperialist agent and an ally of Israel. The Islamic revolution declared its support for the Arabs in their battle to liberate the holy lands and to regain the Palestinian people's national rights. Furthermore, the Iraqi regime is responsible for all the developments in the Iraq-Iran war, including the current serious situation in the Gulf. These developments also affirm that the Iraqi regime's policies are mistaken and very harmful to the Arab national cause.

To remove the possibility of creating an Arab-Iranian conflict is a pan-Arab responsibility. All efforts must be exerted to shoulder this responsibility. In this way, pan-Arab efforts can be directed and concentrated on the pan-Arab battle against the Zionist enemy and its strategic allies in the imperialist countries, particularly U.S. rulers. Firm efforts should be exerted to prevent the expansion of the war to other countries and to drive foreign fleets from the Gulf. Efforts should also be made to tackle regional issues within a suitable framework and within the responsibility of the regional states for regional security. The presence of foreign fleets in the Gulf neither serves peace nor creates a suitable atmosphere for finding a just way out of the war.

Therefore, the Arabs must do their utmost to drive the foreign fleets from the Gulf, thus removing the real danger they pose for security and peace in the region and the world. The Arabs must also do their utmost to prevent themselves from being dragged into a fabricated Arab-Iranian conflict that exhausts and wastes their forces and diverts their attention away from the real ongoing battle with the Zionist enemy.

Arab solidarity must be directed against the enemy of the Arab nation. It must also aim at placing Arab forces and material in the field of the real battle. Solidarity with those who create a conflict harmful to the pan-Arab cause cannot be an Arab solidarity because in the end it will only serve the enemies of the Arab nation.

Saudi Minister Arrives, Makes Statement 25 Aug

JN251603 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — Saudi Commerce Minister Dr Sulayman al-Sulayyim and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon. They are to participate in the 34th Damascus International Fair. Dr Muhammad al-'Immadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, led those who received him at Damascus International Airport.

Dr al-Sulayyim made a statement to the SANA correspondent. He lauded the relations of sincere fraternity between the two sisterly countries on all levels, particularly economic, trade, and industrial cooperation. He said that the governments of both fraternal countries fully support this cooperation. Such support aims to continuously enhance and promote these excellent relations, he added.

He stressed his country's constant interest in participating in the Damascus International Fair in view of the important relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as the role the fair plays in enhancing economic and trade relations. He pointed out that such participation allows Saudi businessmen to become acquainted with the cultural and industrial development in fraternal Syria.

CSSR Deputy Premier Meets With Al-Kasm 26 Aug

JN261146 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] At 1030 today, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Svatopluk Potac, an engineer and CSSR deputy premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission, and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Mahammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and the CSSR ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting Potac conveyed the greetings of CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal, and Dr al-Kasm asked him to convey his greetings to Strougal. The talks dealt with economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation between Syria and the CSSR, which are continuously developing and progressing in all fields.

The prime minister was briefed on the CSSR guest's talks in Damascus and affirmed the importance of these talks in reinforcing effective cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Assembly Speaker Returns From USSR 25 Aug

JN251935 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi returned to Damascus from Moscow this evening following a week-long official and cordial visit to the Soviet Union. Al-Zu'bi and his accompanying delegation held talks with the Soviet officials on parliamentary relations and a number of issues of mutual interest.

TISHRIN Cited on British Official's Remarks on Ties

JN250719 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 25 Aug 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Ignorance or Choosing To Ignore?" *Tishrin* says: In a statement recently published, British Deputy Foreign Secretary Lynda Chalker said her country does not intend to follow the U.S. example in improving relations with Syria. She added that she does not know the reasons that prompted other states to open such a door.

Tishrin adds: Regardless of the intentions that lie behind her statement — and Mrs Chalker did not disclose these intentions or her responsibility in making the statement — what she said does not alter the facts that are known to the world about the British imperialist role in our area and in many parts of the world, and about the patriotic and national pan-Arab liberation movement which Syria leads regardless of the consequences or sacrifices, however great they may be.

How? In sending its envoy Vernon Walters to Damascus, the United States was aware — as U.S. officials publicly declared at the time — that Damascus is one of the solid and consistent facts of the conflict in the region, and that Syria's role cannot be bypassed when establishing peace in the area. Britain also realizes these facts.

Whether or not Britain wants to pursue the correct path in establishing a just and lasting peace in the area or not will not change the fact that we have a leading role in the achievement of peace, in providing the requirements that make such a peace just for our people and Arab nation, and in maintaining good relations with states, governments, and world liberation movements that support us and back our just and legitimate struggle to achieve our objectives that have been endorsed by the international community in world and spirit.

Pakistan's Encroachment Claims 'Strongly' Rejected

LD251646 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today and was told the following by the director of the First Political Section:

The Government of Pakistan, in keeping with its groundless allegations, has again recently alleged that on 14 and 16 August the Afghan Armed Forces encroached by land the (?Ghazah and Nowtia) regions, Bajaur, and the Laka Tiga region in Kurram.

After a comprehensive assessment, the DRA Government considers these claims by the Pakistani Government to be far from the truth, and strongly rejects them. It demands that the Pakistani Government refrain from making such allegations, which do nothing but further aggravate the situation between the two countries.

KYODO: Sources Say Soviet-Kabul Troops Destroy Town

OW251243 Tokyo KYODO in English 1236 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 25, KYODO — Soviet-Afghan forces have virtually destroyed the town of Sheykhabad in the Chumali region, a mujahidin (resistance) stronghold. Fighting in the area was still raging, Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

Both sides were reported by the diplomats to have suffered heavy casualties and the Soviets had stationed heavy armour on Salang road facing the area to supplement ground forces.

Fighting was shifting northward after dying down in southern Chumali, where nearly 200 Soviet and Afghan soldiers were killed around Sheykhabad and Qarah Bagh.

Many civilians were also killed in the Qarah Bagh area, the diplomats said.

The heaviest recent blow to the Soviet forces was the capture by mujahidin of 17 soldiers including a senior military official in early August, forcing the Russians to offer an exchange of prisoners, they said.

Western diplomats also quoted official Afghan media reports of seizures of over 1,100 missiles, 2,100 recoilless cannon shells and large quantities of ammunition. The capture of muhajidin commander Aqa Muhammad in Paghman, seizure of arms and ammunition and the killing of "a number of extremists" in Paghman was also claimed by these media reports.

AFP: Mujahidin Study Plan for Interim Government

BK260600 Hong Kong AFP in English
0541 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25 (AFP) — The main Afghan guerrilla parties are studying a proposal for an "impartial" interim government in Kabul to oversee general elections and a rapid Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, a rebel leader said here Tuesday.

Rebel leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, speaking on behalf of his radical Hezb-e Eslami party, said the idea of forming such a government had met with opposition from "two brothers of the (seven-party rebel) alliance."

The proposal marks a shift in the stand taken by the alliance in January, when the parties had called for an interim government in Kabul composed solely of mujahidin (rebel) leaders.

Mr Hikmatyar said alliance leaders differed over how a proposed interim government should be composed, but did not elaborate. But he ruled out the possibility that it could include the former king of Afghanistan Zahir Shah, now living in exile in Rome.

Ahmad Gaylani, head of the moderate Mahaz-e Milli party, Tuesday called for the setting up of a provisional government, headed by the former king, after a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Mr Gaylani said, at meeting in a refugee camp near the southwest Pakistan town of Quetta, that the proposed provisional government would be charged with organising general elections "allowing the Afghan people to choose the government of their choice," correspondents reported.

Another rebel leader Burhanuddin Rabbani, who heads the Jamiyat-e Eslami, said here recently that he supported setting up an interim government to facilitate a Soviet troop withdrawal and the holding of general elections.

He also expressed opposition to the participation of ex-king Zahir Shah in such a government but did not rule out the possibility of an international peace-keeping force being sent to maintain order in Afghanistan.

Gandhi on Indian Ocean Deep Sea Mining Rights

BK260914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] The prime minister informed the Lok Sabha today amidst cheers that India has been allocated a mine site in the central Indian Ocean. The Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority, a UN body, has allocated to India an area of 150,000 square km for exploration and development. The prime minister described it as an important landmark in development during the 40th anniversary celebrations of India's independence.

Mr Gandhi said we have secured for our country a unique position as India's application for registration and allocation of a mine site was unanimously accepted by the UN body. India is now entitled to explore and develop the resources of the deep seabed which contain rich deposits of polymetallic nodules and are source of important minerals like copper, cobalt, nickel, and manganese. He said commercial exploitation of these resources will take place only in future after we have developed or acquired adequate technology and after the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea comes into force.

'Terrorists' Attack Police Training School in Chandigarh

BK260331 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists struck at the central detective training school in Chandigarh early this morning, killing two policemen and injuring six others. According to an official spokesman, about 20 trainees were doing physical exercises when some terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at them with sten guns. Eight of the trainees were injured. Two of them succumbed to their injuries. The condition of the other six is stated to be serious.

All the checkposts in the Union territory and police in neighboring states have been alerted.

Three persons were shot dead in separate incidents in Amritsar and Jullundur Districts yesterday. A farmer was shot dead when he was returning home in a village in Jullundur District. Two persons were shot dead in Amritsar District.

he Jullundur police have arrested one of the culprits involved in the Mustufapur killings in which seven persons were gunned down. He has been identified as Gurdyal Singh, a leader of the Kartarpur unit of All India Sikh Students Federation. During interrogations, he has named the other killers involved in the incident.

Meanwhile, the Punjab police chief, Mr Ribeiro, has said that the meet-the-people campaign launched by the state police has been successful. Talking to our correspondent in Chandigarh, he said people are now extending more cooperation to the police and paramilitary forces in their fight against terrorism. Two A category and 21 B category terrorists have been killed and 7 of them arrested in encounters since the promulgation of president's rule in the state.

Punjab Chiefs Says 'Terrorists' Surrendering to Police

BK260437 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The Punjab police chief, Mr J.F. Ribeiro, has said that in a new development the terrorists have started surrendering to the police. Six of them have surrendered in Amritsar recently. He assured full protection to the families of those terrorists who voluntarily surrendered to the police.

Talking to the All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent, Mr Ribeiro said the people are now extending more cooperation to the police and the paramilitary forces in the fight against terrorism. The Punjab police have in the meanwhile arrested 16 terrorists, including one involved in the recent Mustafapur killing (?who) has been identified as Gurdyal Singh.

Pakistan Accused of Arming Sikhs To Kill VIP's

BK241654 Hong Kong AFP in English 1624 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 24 (AFP) — Sikh militants in Punjab have acquired from Pakistan sophisticated weapons, including rockets, mortars and explosives with remote control devices, to kill VIP's, a top police officer said here Monday [24 August]. They may also be attempting to procure a helicopter, Amritsar District Police Chief Mohammed Izhar Alam told a news conference in this Sikh holy city, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) north-west of the Indian capital.

In New Delhi, the Pakistani Embassy could not be reached for comment. But Islamabad has denied previous charges of funding and arming the Sikh militants, who are fighting for an independent homeland in the northern state.

Mr. Alam, a Moslem who is high on the militants' hit-list, said information about the weapon collection came during the interrogation of some members of the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), the biggest of half-a-dozen secessionist groups in Punjab. He gave no further details about the arms acquisition.

Sikh militants have targeted a large number of Hindu and Sikh VIP's, including leading politicians and police officers, both within and outside the border state in their campaign for a homeland Khalistan. Radhey Shyam Malhotra, a prominent Hindu activist of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party, was gunned down by three Sikh gunmen in the industrial city of Ludhiana, Punjab, earlier Monday.

Mr. Alam said the KCF had also tried to blast his heavily-guarded house with remote-controlled rockets and had tried a strafe him from a helicopter. He did not say when the attempts were made. Two members of Babbar Khalsa, another separatist group, were held recently for planning to blow up his office complex in Amritsar, he added.

Mr. Alam heads the police force in Amritsar District, which borders Pakistan and is a hotbed of Sikh militants. The Golden Temple, Sikhdom's holiest shrine, is situated in Amritsar city.

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan, with which it has fought three wars, of backing the bloody Sikh separatist campaign, which has claimed more than 615 lives this year. Some 650 were killed in Punjab in 1986.

In New Delhi's federal Parliament, the government said Monday it wanted more powers to curb the "terrorist menace" in Punjab. "We do not want to cripple our police force by not giving enough powers to meet the situation," Minister of State for Home Palaniappan Chidambaram told the lower house of Parliament. He was taking part in a debate on the terrorist and disruptive activities (prevention) bill, which aims at giving increased powers to security forces in fighting the Sikh militancy.

Some 130 Sikh militants and 21 policemen had been killed in Punjab since it was brought under New Delhi's direct rule in May, he added.

Punjab Governor Asked To Review 'Confrontation' Policy
BK251531 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 19 Aug 87 p 5

[Text] Chandigarh, Aug. 18 — Mr Amarinder Singh, leader of the "unified" Akali Legislature Party on Monday [17 August] urged the Punjab Governor, Mr S. S. Ray, to have "an immediate reappraisal of the policy of confrontation" being pursued in Punjab.

In a letter, Mr Amarinder Singh warned that if the present policy continued, "retaliatory acts will continue due to the terror that the security forces have let loose in Punjab and that, in turn, will make the Sikhs living in other states targets for the murderous mobs who await such occasions".

He said that "we are fast approaching a point when you will have to contend, not only with a serious internal law and order problem but with migration situation reminiscent of 1947 and by that we shall be playing straight into the hands of those who want the destabilisation of our country".

In his eight-page letter, Mr Amarinder Singh is understood to have referred to the controversy generated by his claim that 2,700 Sikh youths were missing in Punjab and the challenge thrown by Mr J. F. Ribeiro, director-general of police, to give specific instances of fake encounters. Mr Amarinder Singh said that his party's district units would, after their formation on August 20, start preparing a village-wise list of such missing persons.

Mr Amwarinder Singh said that nobody knows what the Centre's policy in Punjab is as nothing was visible, neither was anything happening that could give hope to resolve the problem through negotiations.

"So far," he said, "all we have seen is a series of reactions to incidents that take place. While this policy of drift continues and a solution is looked at, through Mr Ribeiro's security forces, bitterness is on the increase and in such a situation, as time passes, it is usually the voice of reason that is the first casualty and Punjab is fast heading in that direction".

Whether he supported those who indulged in terrorist acts and looting, Mr Amarinder Singh said that while his party is Anandpur Sahib resolution [as published], the "political ideology of my party is poles apart from that of these hard line groups. We look for greater autonomy for the state within the Union and respect for the law of the land while they are advocating breaking away from the Union". But his party would stand up for those who were the "targets of this totally unlawful and inhuman approach (fake encounters)".

He said that the attitude of the Government was being viewed by the Sikhs as discriminatory and intended to harm their interests." [no opening quotation marks as published]

Communists Party Workers Flee From Gurkha Militants
BK241511 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP) — More than 2,500 Communist Party workers and their families have fled the hill district of Darjeeling where Gurkha militants have killed 50 communist activists in recent months, a newspaper reported Monday.

The Telegraph newspaper published in Calcutta said the existence of the country's main left-wing party, the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), was under threat in Darjeeling because of the Gurkha campaign for a homeland.

Some 2,519 CPI-M workers and their families were living in camps outside the north-eastern town of Darjeeling, administered by the West Bengal state government from Calcutta, the newspaper said. The CPI-M has held power in West Bengal for the last decade and won a third consecutive term in office in March.

The Telegraph, quoting intelligence reports, said nearly 50 communist activists had been killed in attacks by the Gurkha National Liberation Front, which launched its movement against alleged discrimination in May 1986. Another 35 communist activists had been injured and 16 kidnapped or were missing, *The Telegraph* said. Nearly 200 houses belonging to CPI-M supporters had been burnt down, including that of member of the Federal Parliament Ananda Pathak.

Last week another 35 CPI-M activists and their families moved into the party's heavily-guarded central office in Darjeeling for their own protection. The Gurkhas, of Nepalese origin, say the Darjeeling area has been neglected by the West Bengal and federal governments.

Rajai'e-Khorassani Comments on Gulf, UN Resolution
NC260549 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Central News Unit report on interview with UN Ambassador Rajai'e-Khorassani by unidentified correspondent from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London on 25 August]

[Text] Referring to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's request to Mr Larijani, our deputy foreign minister, for a meeting, Mr Rajai'e-Khorassani said: On the one hand, the United States continues with its efforts to defeat the Islamic Republic of Iran; on the other, it requests a meeting with Iranian officials. The only motive for this is demagoguery and to distract U.S. public opinion.

Mr Rajai'e-Khorassani asserted: The current situation is such that reports that America's largest ship in the Persian Gulf had fired on a small Arab fishing boat there highlighted the news carried by U.S. radio, television, and press. This is because the American people's opposition to their government's military presence in the Persian Gulf has greatly increased. Congressional debates on this issue have also heated up tremendously. By forging news and creating situations, Reagan attempts to distract U.S. public opinion from these concerns and opposition.

With regard to the Western media's view of Mr Larijani's interview, which they described as a change in Iran's stand, Mr Rajai'e-Khorassani stated: The newspapers have reported that Mr Larijani has declared that Iran does not require Saddam's downfall in exchange for peace. This is nothing but mischief by the mass media. The point that we must bear in mind is that Saddam's downfall was and is our political and military objective. There has been absolutely no change in this stand.

Commenting Iran's latest stand toward the United Nations, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's position with regard to the United Nations has not changed at all. However, it is necessary to note that a paragraph in the recent Security Council resolution on the Iran-Iraq war calls for the examination of the reasons for the commencement of this war. This is exactly what we have requested. In response to this resolution, we communicated to the UN secretary general that we support the Council's views on ending the killing of civilians, on limiting the war, and similar issues. However, we neither accept nor reject the resolution. Our objective is to show our friends in the Security Council that we thank them for their efforts to include these points in the resolution and to simultaneously slap the United States in the face so that it will realize that the Security Council will not approve whatever it wants.

On the recent remarks by the Iraqi regime's ambassador to the United States, who said that Iraq will resume its attack on shipping should the UN's efforts not yield any results, Mr Rajai'e-Khorassani said: Iraq has lost its credibility because the United States has ordered it to stop attacking ships. U.S. radio, television, and press have said and written that the United States has ordered Iraq to cease its attacks on ships and that Iraq has accepted. The Iraqi ambassador's remarks were merely a political gesture for domestic consumption. He made these statements to show the Iraqi people that Saddam is still alive, still has power, and can still take initiative. However, the true situation is different. This empty slogan will not solve Iraq's problem. Iran will not change the nature of its answer to the United Nations or to the Security Council.

Tehran Reports Musavi 25 Aug News Conference
LD251921 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Hoseyn Musavi took part in a news conference this afternoon during which he spoke about current regional problems, the war, and recent developments.

With regard to the continuation of the war and the resulting pressures on the country, he said: The price we pay is in fact the price of freedom and independence. He added: We have mobilized ourselves. The use of expert and efficient forces in accordance withthe country's economy is an indication of the enduring resistance of our nation until the achievement of final victory. To dry up the roots of the aggression we will fight until our demands are realized. We will never abandon our principles.

In reply to a question about a recent seminar in which it was stated that the great powers are trying to drag Iran into a compromise, the prime minister stated: The compromise which we are confronting is one that will safeguard the rights of the United States in the region rather than restore our legitimate rights. We are against it. Moreover, survival of the Saddam regime is part of the same compromise which the United States intends to impose in the region, but we will not give in.

In connection with a possible arms embargo by the great powers, the prime minister said: We do not fear an arms ban. We will continue our activities and explain our positions to the world. He said: The continuation of the war has moved us to a position where we can utilize our own capabilities on a vast scale. We are able to bear the cost of the war because of the vast coordination between the executive and financial establishments.

Musavi added: An arms ban will not be 100 percent successful in view of the present conditions. These problems do not frighten us. The world has seen that world markets are at our disposal and that the powers cannot prevent us from going along the way which we have recognized to be the right path. Therefore, we have prepared ourselves for more pressures and we will not retreat from any scene.

Commenting on the recent Security Council resolution, the prime minister said: We have repeatedly explained our position with regard to Security Council Resolution No 598. However, some of the positions taken were about whether the resolution is able to restore peace in the region. We must say that while the ink on Clause 5 of the resolution was still wet, the United States, Britain, and France created a tense situation in the Persian Gulf with the presence of their forces. They paid no heed to the fact that in an environment where there is oppression, our nation will be forced to rise up. The prime minister noted: Of course, there are positive points in the resolution but one must ask why, when

the town of Sardasht is exposed to direct bombing, this point is not referred to explicitly and why the aggressor is not condemned.

Regarding the Saudi foreign minister's proposal at the Arab Foreign ministers conference in Tunis on severing relations with Iran, the prime minister said: Recent events indicate that we may be forced to do without the kind of relations we used to have. This conference [in Tunis] was an attempt to separate the fate of the Arabs from the fate of 1 billion Muslims. Of course, this will not materialize. He said: The Mecca event has created a new problem. It is natural that it will bring consequences in its wake. The decisions which our country has adopted are indicative of the various dimensions of the recent crime in Mecca. This effort is the reaction of revolutionary Islam, which stems from the movement of the nations, against the kind of Islam which has been maintained by the petrodollars of the Saudi regime over the world for the protection of U.S. interests. We will respond in a suitable manner proportional to the efforts of the Saudis in the region.

Announcing that there is no restriction on the departure of Saudi diplomats from Iran and that this is only an unfounded rumor, the prime minister added: Our relations with the Saudi regime are now at the lowest possible level. We will adopt the necessary decisions.

In reply to a question that our country's deputy minister of foreign affairs, speaking in New York, omitted the ouster of Saddam Husayn from among Iran's terms for ending the war, the prime minister said: Such a thing is not true at all. What we have called for, and which is part of the basic terms for ending the war, is the punishment of the aggressor. We will always maintain this condition as a principle.

Bans Export of Scrap, Waste Copper

D260904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0730 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] The Mines and Metals Ministry announces the following: On the orders of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, it is forbidden to export any copper waste or copper scrap metal abroad so that we can activate the country's traditional smelting furnaces and use the scrap metal in the furnaces of the Iranian National Copper Company.

Karrubi News Conference Statement on Mecca

NC260702 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 26 Aug 87

["Text" of statement by Mehdi Karrubi, the imam's representative and hajj supervisor, followed by question and answer session at a news conference held at the Laleh Hotel in Tehran on 24 August -- recorded]

[Text] [Karrubi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O Lord! Let our hearts not deviate now after You have guided us. But grant us mercy from Your own presence, for You are the grantor of bounties without measures. [Koranic verse] I wish to begin by first presenting a report on the hajj incidents to our and other nations and to the esteemed correspondents. The first point is that the political movement, including the demonstrations and marches, the act of elaborating on the problems of the Islamic world, and seeking the disavowal and antipathy against the enemies of Islam and the oppressed nations, is part of the political obligations of the hajj. We believe in this and it is clearly seen in Islamic verses and traditions. This is part of the character and code of ethics of our imams. In other words, along with religious issues, rituals, and the (?traditions) of the hajj, social and political traditions also are incorporated and should be performed accordingly.

The second issue is the march, which has been a regular event ever since Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Kho'iniha was the imam's representative at the hajj. During the 3 years that I have been the imam's representative, hajj rituals have been carried out in an exemplary manner. The marches have proceded in an organized, orderly, and peaceful manner without any clashes. It was only this year that the disavowal march in Mecca was marked by a massacre and bloodshed. A few days earlier, the march of unity had taken place in Medina in a calm, peaceful, and orderly manner. The march ended peacefully near the holy precincts, where the marchers offered evening prayers alongside other Muslims.

This proves that the Islamic Republic, the Iranian pilgrims, and the participants from all other the countries had no desire to instigate violence or any incident. They only wished to voice their particular slogans which have been endorsed by the esteemed imam. The modus operandi of action in Mecca had been affirmed by the leadership. It was repeatedly stressed that it should not result in any clash. In fact, the individuals participating in the march had been instructed to maintain their composure and not to respond if a clash were to take place. This instruction was given on the basis that our aim is the unity of Muslims and the disavowal and antipathy of enemies of Islam, aggressors, the arch-satan, Israel, and the superpowers. Hence, they were told to avoid a clash and not to become involved if they were treated harshly by officials or police.

The third point is that the march had been agreed upon with the Hijaz authorities. In the talks that were held, whether this year in Mecca or in the year 1365 [year ending March 1986], the march was agreed upon and the venue of the route was specifically delineated. In the year 1365, I deputized Mr Jahangiri as the head of the office and Mr Hissam Khashuqji was appointed by the hajj minister. They arrived in Mecca to draw up the exact route. They even went to the streets and pinpointed the length of the route. Following our meeting with the hajj minister, who had actually come to visit me at the imam's mission [in Mecca], it was decided that Mr Hissam should come to the mission the next day in order to mark the length of the entire route. He came and in the presence of Mr Hadi [not further identified], Mr Jahangiri, Mr Hissam, and a few Hijaz officials, he said the route and the number of people participating would be the same as last year.

I want to bring up a point to which I will refer later; namely, that this year's conflict took place approximately 200 meters from the area that all sides had agreed would mark the end of the march. In other words, we still had around 200 meters to go when the conflict broke out.

My first point that the march, the political movement, and the study of the problems of the Islamic world are among the programs of the hajj pilgrimage should not be forgotten. At the same time, it must be remembered that agreement had been reached on the fact that the march would be held.

The fourth point is that the Al Sa'ud dynasty had fully prepared itself for the suppression, not for the dispersion, but for the suppression of the demonstrations. This in itself was a great plot. This issue is linked with the issues of the region, the war, the Persian Gulf, U.S. plots, and regional pressures in general. That regime had prepared itself to crush the demonstrations.

I want to mention that during the meeting in which the hajj minister [of Saudi Arabia] had expressed concern over the demonstrations and the march, one of the points he raised was that the king was under strong pressure by his friends because Iranians were going to Saudi Arabia to carry out political activities or to hold marches. We said that the political activities do not concern us alone, but the world of Islam in general. We stressed that our slogans do not concern us only. This issue involves the world of Islam, and as this is a sanctuary of divine peace and the house of God, a center for uprising, it is natural that the problems of the Islamic world should be discussed within this holy center.

However, there is much evidence proving that we were carrying out the march calmly and that the Al Sa'ud regime had prepared itself to crush us. First, the crowd was surrounded. You all are aware that when demonstrations take place, tear gas, water canons, batons, and possibly arms are used, but only in stages. If a demonstration takes place, roads are opened so that the crowd can be dispersed and flee. If the crowd is pressured from one side, roads are usually opened to allow the crowd a way to escape. As an ordinary soldier during the revolution and in the struggle against the shah's despotism from 1341 to 1357 [1962-1978], I participated in dozens of demonstrations. I participated in the bloody demonstrations of 15 Khordad 1342 [5 June 1963] and in ordinary demonstrations. It always was common to leave ways open for escape. However, in the Mecca march, in which I participated, as well as in other marches which I saw, I realized that the intention was to crush the marchers. All the roads were closed. The crowd was pushed toward streets that were open, but they were suddenly turned back and told that the street was closed. Many marchers were martyred as a result of the severe pressure the crowd was under. The crowd retreated to the mission [of the imam], or to the point where the demonstrations started. The pressure was resumed on the crowd at this point of the demonstrations. This was one of the reasons why the number of martyrs was so great. The crowd was hemmed in and surrounded.

Second, some of the missions and doctors from Islamic countries officially stated to the imam's mission [personnel] that on the morning of Black Friday they had been instructed not to accept or to treat any Iranians who were to be wounded that day. This clearly proved that they had prepared themselves for the conflict and clashes.

Third, in light of their massive propaganda campaign, it was obvious that they had prepared themselves. The leaders of reactionary countries and of some countries who had been consulted earlier supported them. The other point is that the despotic Saudi rulers of Hijaz said: We had been informed that they would come toward the Ka'bah and occupy it. Hence, the clash ensued. We ask them: If you knew that the people had come to take over the Ka'bah, you could have averted it by banning the demonstrations instead of indulging in this savage massacre. It is obvious that you wished to crush and kill them. You could have surrounded the imam's mission, the square, or the street where the mission is situated with law enforcement forces. The same APC's, the Armed Forces, and heavy equipment patrolling the streets in the days after the incident should have been brought in before the march to prevent it. If you wanted this to happen, if you did not want (?to be blamed), if you wanted to avert the killing, then this is what you should have done.

The day that we had the third Komel prayers, that is, after the hajj rituals had been performed, you could have interfered and prevented the march. You prevented me from going to Medina and you stopped Mr Jamarani and Mr Rezai'e also. You stationed law enforcement forces in the precincts of the (?Baqi'), and around the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps that protect the [Iranian] mission and did not permit the Komel prayers to take place. They could have done this (?earlier). They announced that those people in the buildings which accommodate the pilgrims from the occupied land of Palestine should not leave their buildings or that they should go to the Ka'bah and not leave the precincts. The police announced on loudspeakers that the Arab brothers, the (?local residents), and the Hijaz citizens should stay away from the march and not participate. Shops had closed in the morning. All of this proves that they had prepared themselves for a clash and to crush [the marchers]. Asphyxiating gas [was used] instead of teargas. You can see that one of the reasons for the heavy toll was that the people were not only besieged, but were pushed together and then exposed to asphyxiating gases. As a result, the people fell down and suffocated. They were flailing their arms and legs in all directions. This evidence proves that the Saudis had prepared themselves for the repression. We have now analyzed why they did this and what their objective was.

Now I want to mention the lies that Saudi Arabia — that is, the usurping government of Hijaz — has disseminated. Their propaganda started when [they said] that the Iranians had planned to set fire to the Ka'bah; that the Iranians wanted to come and take part of the Ka'bah to Qom and set it up there; that no shots were fired at all. They published pictures of things like knives, scissors, nail clippers, and skewers, and claimed that these weapons and war materiel were taken from Iranians who had come to massacre. The answers to these are very clear.

In 1359 [1980], when a group went to the prophet's mosque and a conflict broke out with the Saudi Government, the first great Islamic personality, the greatest personality of the Islamic world and the leader of the revolution — the imam - - condemned that act at that time. He stressed that that place is a sanctuary and that such a conflict should not take place. In other words, the imam condemned that armed group's action.

As for taking the Ka'bah to Qom, anyone with a religious outlook, an idea of Islam, any person who knows the alphabet of Islam and of religion, and is acquainted with the sayings and the teachings, can understand how foolish it is to claim that the

intention was to take the Ka'bah to Qom. The Ka'bah and all its features, everything that has been said about it in the Koran, and the characteristics of the land where it is, all show how disgraceful Saudi Arabia's propaganda has been.

They told a great lie from the very beginning, and now do not know how extricate themselves from it, specifically, that no shots were fired. First, I want to complain to and criticize the correspondents and the freedom-seeking and inquisitive public. A great incident took place and a number of people were martyred — a large number of whom were women; we will also give you the total number. How did such a great incident take place without correspondents at least pressuring the embassies of Hijaz to demand to go to the scene of the incident and to be informed about the situation? When the usurping government of Hijaz announced and repeated that it had not fired even one bullet and started to disseminate lies that bodies were taken to Iran and shot there, that Iran is at war with Iraq and it therefore brings the dead from the front and says that they were brought from Hijaz, we stated that the correspondents should come to Jeddah. We told them that we would send the martyrs and wounded to them — martyrs and wounded who had passports and who were on specified convoys — so that they would see for themselves the bullet wounds on the men and women, how their wounds were infected, and how sick they felt. These people were not brought from the fronts and their bodies were not riddled with bullets by Iran. We asked them to come to Jeddah to see the corpses, to see the living and the martyred, to see that these people had been issued visas by Saudi Arabia and had come for the hajj pilgrimage. No one answered us. We did not hear in any news items that anyone had applied to the Saudi Embassy and asked to come there and see for themselves.

Another point which shows that they used false propaganda was that they reported that the knives were taken from the people [after the sacrifices of sheep were performed] in Mina'. They [the Saudis] took the knives from the people who were employed by the convoys. They entered the convoys and gathered these utensils. They then published the pictures in the newspapers and claimed that these weapons belonged to Iranians who came for subversive purposes. This was Saudi Arabia's propaganda.

Another point is the presence of all the Muslims in this march and demonstration, some of whom were wounded or martyred. Their presence was extraordinary. They participated in the ceremonies, especially in the Komel prayers. Later, when the heartrending incident occurred, they expressed their sympathies. We have videocassettes, films, and audiotapes here which I will present to my brothers and sisters. They will show the sympathy and assistance of all Muslims. I must add that there were persons who gave us their names and addresses and said that if a proper tribunal is set up, they will testify to the brutal and oppressive manner in which the pilgrims to the house of God were martyred with bullets and firearms. In any case, the presence of all the Muslims was conspicuous. The sympathy of brothers from Turkey, other Arab countries, and African countries is fully recorded in their letters, tapes, films, and correspondence.

I wish to mention at this point that when extraordinary pressure was exerted on the demonstrators, the only places of refuge were the buildings occupied by Muslims — the buildings of the Palestinians, Jordanians, Bahrainis, Turks, and Qataris, as well as the houses of some Pakistani brothers and of some Saudis who welcomed them with open arms and extended immense hospitality. They were accommodated later in buildings that were already occupied by thousands of people in order to be safe from the scourge of the police.

The victimization and harassment of the pilgrims later assumed ugly proportions. They were prejudiced due to the United States' hostility toward us. Because of this, the reactionaries of the region displayed malice against the pilgrims to the house of God, whether men or women, old or young. You might have heard that after the hajj rituals were performed, the pilgrims who returned to Mecca were detained for 15-18 hours — as they had stated later — outside the police centers at the entrance of Medina in extreme heat. You can imagine what it is like to wait in a bus for 16 hours in the heat of July. As a result of the heat and strain, a woman succumbed. They then said to some of the caravans [parties of pilgrims]..[incomplete sentence as heard] They took the ignition keys so that the vehicles' air conditioners were switched off. They did not permit anyone to leave the buses.

When our Medina headquarters heard of their plight, they brought water for them. However, the Saudis did not permit them to (?give it to us). After 1 day we were in a bad state. We have correspondence on all this. Even though he had suspended all contacts [with the Saudis] Mr Rezai'e, as the hajj supervisor and the executive official, continued his correspondence with them and wrote to them. They did not tolerate this either. They did not (?answer) and expelled Mr Rezai'e, the only liaison we had.

I will state the number of martyrs and then will answer any questions that our brothers and respected correspondents have. The total number of martyrs is 324. We had initially announced that 322 had been martyred. Subsequently, however, two of the wounded who were hospitalized were martyred. This is according to the latest reports that we have received today. Therefore, the total number of martyrs is 324. Of this number, 210 were women and 114 were men. The corpses have been identified and brought to Iran. Fifty-nine corpses have not been identified or been brought to Iran yet. Therefore, out of the 324, 59 corpses are in Hijaz and all have been transferred to Jeddah. Of these 59 corpses, 42 are women and 17 men. Therefore, we do not have all the corpses of our martyrs.

As I said, 59 of the corpses have not yet been identified. The faces are deformed. Some are burned. Bodies are black or swollen and it is difficult to identify them. Either a group will go there to identify the bodies or all the corpses will be sent to Iran for identification. I want to state that all the rumors have now been refuted. There are no missing Iranians in Saudi Arabia. From the very beginning of the incident, we were very careful and followed up everything. Twenty-nine persons were missing, 22 of whom were imprisoned and have since been released. They returned during the past 3 or 4 days. The remaining seven persons were listed as dead and buried there. Of these seven people, three were women and four were men. Their names, their graves, and the registration number of their burials have been given.

My last point, which proves that we did not intend to start a conflict and demonstrations, is that if we had intended to do so, we would not have placed the disabled, selfless people in the front of the crowds. The women would not have led the crowds. You know that the largest blow was inflicted on the convoy of the families of martyrs and of the selfless people who were sent from the Martyrs' Foundation. [This convoy] had around 11 martyrs, 5 of whom were the mothers of martyrs, some were disabled selfless people, and some were accompanying them. If we had intended to start a conflict, we would not have used this method. We had no intention of starting a conflict. Our aim was only to hold a calm march with the specified slogans on the basis of our religious principles and beliefs. This was to have been held on the basis of the agreement that had been reached. These are my comments. Now I will answer any questions that [the correspondents] may have.

[Unidentified moderator] The first question is from the Central News Unit correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Central News Unit correspondent] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Mr Karrubi, in view of the imam's important remarks yesterday, and in your capacity as the imam's representative and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, what is your program for keeping alive this great incident that took place in Saudi Arabia?

[Karrubi] As the imam pointed out, all of our propaganda and religious potentials are ready and are being prepared to keep this incident alive. Authors, scholars, poets, performers, narrators, and panegyrists should employ all of their resources. As both the imam's representative in the hajj pilgrimage and as the imam's representative and supervisor of the Martyrs' Foundation of the Islamic Revolution, I call on all of them to cooperate. Incidentally, they have already started their activities.

[Correspondent] In view of the Islamic Republic's superior and influential position in the world, especially in the Persian Gulf region, certain known countries have taken a political approach to this incident. What is your view of this, and what approach should be adopted with regard to such countries?

[Karrubi] As the imam has stated in detail, this is an Islamic issue. It is the duty of all Muslims to confront this incident. We are primarily addressing Islamic nations. Certainly, if governments do not unite with their people, they will be harmed by their people because of these nations' religious beliefs. This is an issue that concerns the beliefs and the religious principles of nations.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Moderator] (*Al-Akhbar al-Islamiyah*), published in London:

[(*Al-Akhbar al-Islamiyah*) correspondent] Saudi Interior Minister Al-Nayif said that he had warned the Iranian authorities to call off all demonstrations before they were held. However, the Iranian pilgrims did not heed his warning. Is what Al-Nayif said correct? If it is, why were measures not taken to halt the demonstrations or to suspend them?

[Karrubi] As I said earlier, it had been agreed upon that the march could take place up to a specified location. The clash was started even before we reached that point. I emphasize that no such warning had been issued.

[Moderator] Shahed from the Islamic Revolution Foundation of the Martyrs newspaper:

[Shahed] In view of the Bloody Friday incident, and the confirmation of the Al Sa'ud rulers' incompetence in correctly administering the two holy mosques in an Islamic way, has the Islamic Republic of Iran reached a decision or formulated a plan to administer the two holy sites which would be acceptable to all Islamic countries?

[Karrubi] As you are already aware, this issue has been raised on many occasions. Learned personalities, including political personalities, have witnessed the incompetence and inefficiency with which they are administered. The Saudis are not at all qualified to discharge such duties. Hence, this issue and other pertinent matters were discussed by the imam. This issue will be followed up. We will certainly plan a program for its implementation which will be pursued by the (?officials concerned).

[Moderator] *Jeune-Afrique*, published in France.

[*Jeune-Afrique* correspondent] It is being reported that Saudi authorities plan to limit the number of Iranian pilgrims in coming years. What is the Islamic Republic of Iran's reaction?

[Karrubi] If the Saudi officials say that they do not have the means to accommodate them, then it will be further proof of their inefficiency and incompetence. Hajj is a religious obligation and the countries which are duty bound to perform the hajj will do so. Regardless of the fact that the Saudis want to regulate the number of pilgrims, we believe that those who wish to perform the pilgrimage should be allowed to do so. If they do not have the means to ensure hospitality, it is further proof of their inefficiency and incompetence.

[Moderator] The correspondent of *Kayhan* in Arabic.

[*Kayhan* correspondent] In view of the fact that the Bloody Friday incident is one of the unprecedented tragedies in Islam's history, what steps have been taken to record this incident for the coming generations as a disgraceful document of hypocrites?

[Karrubi] As you know, we have just returned from the hajj, that is, we were expelled. Notes were prepared there. Offices were and are being set up for this purpose in order to record this crime and to record what was witnessed. The work is to start right now. The basic work has not yet started, but preliminary work has begun.

[Jack Green of UPI] What impact will the Mecca incident have on Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia? Is a peaceful path possible? If yes, please explain. Thank you.

[Karrubi] The Hijaz incident is not common. As the imam has pointed out, this was a case of disrespect, not a case of massacre. This is an issue regarding the entire world of Islam which

everyone should answer. Everyone also should confront the Saudi rulers. They do not seem to have a solution.

[Moderator] *Abrar* newspaper.

[*Abrar* correspondent] The imam stated in his remarks yesterday that Muslims should use all their strength to wage war against the perpetrators of the Mecca incident and the usurpers of the two holy mosques. Can you specify what methods they should use?

[Karrubi] The mode of the war depends on the nations. The imam stated that they should do whatever they deem suitable. Certainly, the Muslim nations, especially the revolutionary [Muslim] nations, are mature and know precisely what they should do.

[Correspondent] Why was the Saudi Arabian press much more active than the Iranian mass media, even though Iranians were killed?

[Karrubi] The people who were martyred are from various Islamic nations. However, Iranians made up the greater part and, naturally, the march was conducted by Iranians. As for the propaganda, one can say that they had prepared themselves previously. Proof that they had prepared themselves [for this incident] is this propaganda. However, their propaganda is false and, according to the Koran, is only froth on the water. The profound and true propaganda comes from the Islamic Republic. The fact is that Saudi Arabia's propaganda has been neutralized by what our propagandizers — who were there — have disseminated to the entire world.

[Moderator] *Resalat* newspaper.

[*Resalat* correspondent] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. What is the Islamic Republic of Iran's most recent stance toward the crime committed by the Al Sa'ud regime on Bloody Friday in Mecca?

[Karrubi] All of you heard the Imam's utterances yesterday which informed you about the various aspects of this crime. Obviously, the Islamic Republic of Iran, from among all the other Muslim nations, has and will utilize its maximum resources for tackling this atrocity which violated the sanctity of the house of God.

[Moderator] *Al-Masa'*, published in London.

[*Al-Masa'* correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Karrubi] The land of Hijaz from Ka'bah and Mecca is the house of God. It is an obligation for all Muslims who can afford to go to the house of God to conduct a pilgrimage. Does Saudi Arabia have the power or authority to prevent anyone from going on a pilgrimage? To prevent one from doing so is the greatest proof of incompetency, a gross shortcoming. Obviously, it cannot be (?done).

[Unidentified correspondent] Regarding the march rituals, was setting fire to the U.S. flag part of the ceremonies? My last question is: The Saudi regime has denied firing at the people. Do you have any film which shows the actual shooting?

[Karrubi] Setting fire to the U.S. flag was part of the march program; it was setting fire to a symbol of aggression, especially in these sensitive circumstances which we are witnessing in the Persian Gulf. What was the second part of your question?

[Correspondent] It was on the denial of the shooting and whether there is any photograph or film of the shooting.

[Karrubi] Regarding the shooting, as I told you earlier, there was a large crowd on 6th of Dhu al-Hijjah [31 July] and all heard the shooting that night. The testimony of people, the venue where the clash occurred, and the shooting that took place is evidence of the crime. The places where the bullets hit the walls have been filmed and those films are ready. Of course, we were in difficult circumstances and the cameras and the equipment kept jostling against people in the crowd. Now, I do not know exactly how many films they were able to bring back here and how many they could not. It is possible the films were (?confiscated). Those who could brought (?some). The conditions were extremely difficult.

[Moderator] *Reuter* news agency.

[*Reuter* correspondent] Your Excellency has stated that all the Muslims of the world should do what they deem necessary to protest the crime that was perpetrated in Mecca. My question is: Does Iran intend to retaliate and, if so, what retaliation will it consider? My second question is: Does Iran want to sever all its diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia or not?

[Karrubi] I repeat that this is an Islamic duty. Iran is an Islamic country and is next to the rest of the Muslims. I repeat that it will certainly use all of its resources to confront this venture against the sanctity of the house of God. As for the severence of relations, we repeat that this issue is higher than this. The leaders of the country may study whether relations should be severed or not. But the issue is far more important than this.

[Moderator] *Asahi* of Japan.

[*Asahi* correspondent] On the basis of Iran's policy, the hajj pilgrimage has political aspects in addition to its religious ones. However, this is not the view of the Saudi police who say that the pilgrims should perform their religious duties there. Therefore, because of this, conflicts take place in Mecca every year. What are Your Excellency's comments on this conflict of views?

[Karrubi] Most Islamic scholars believe that the hajj pilgrimage is a political-religious and social issue. Some, the Wahhabis, do not believe this. This is not an issue that concerns the police. It is a technical, specialized, scientific, and religious issue. We have repeatedly invited them to come and discuss this with us, but they have not been prepared to talk with us.

[Moderator] *Zan-e Ruz* magazine.

[*Zan-e Ruz* correspondent] In the name of God. Please discuss what special impact the bloody Mecca incident had on the people

of Saudi Arabia and on the pilgrims from the other countries of the world.

[Karrubi] It had an extremely positive impact. Of course, it was a tragedy, a heartrending incident which we did not want. However, the people who saw the crimes expressed their sympathy. Their interest in the system of the Islamic Republic and in the Islamic revolution increased. The vast propaganda that was aimed at them in Hijaz had very little effect, and many letters were received in expressing interest in the Islamic resolution. They had even granted refuge to our wounded and brought them to the imam's mission and, later on, to the headquarters. They also expressed shame on the incident.

[Correspondent] Has any information been received on the fate of all the sisters who were listed as missing?

[Karrubi] The bodies of a large part of the people listed as missing have been brought here. The number of people listed as missing corresponds with the number of corpses that are still there. These corpses need only to be identified.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency Mr Karrubi, you are the imam's representative for hajj affairs and in the Martyrs' Foundation of the Islamic Revolution. You also have been elected to the post of deputy speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. My question is: During his meeting with the cabinet, the imam pointed out that if we forget the Jerusalem incident and the infidel Saddam, we will not forget this incident. Can you further explain clearly what Iran's serious and practical step will be? Also, it is reported in the news and in political circles that a delegation is to go to Hijaz in the near future for talks. How accurate are these reports?

[Karrubi] This is the first time I have heard about such a delegation. I categorically deny this report. In my opinion, there is definitely no such issue. This is the first time I have heard this. As for an approach, we should wait for the future and for the steps to be taken. I repeat that these steps stem from religious beliefs and all the Muslims, or at least the majority of the Muslims whose feelings have been hurt with this incident, will certainly react.

[Moderator] This is the Central News Unit from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Further Reportage on Visit of PRC Official

Holds Talks With Velayati

NC260520 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] The deputy foreign minister and special envoy of the PRC, who is carrying messages for leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with our foreign minister yesterday afternoon.

Referring to the two countries' good and historic relations, he stated: We thank the Iranian leaders for the attention they are paying to expanding reltions with China. We also pay special attention to broadening our relations with Iran. We believe that the two countries share many common perspectives with regard to international issues. He praised Iran's struggles, stating: Iran is a truly nonaligned country. We can see vast prospects for the expansion of the two countries' relations.

In reply, our foreign minister stressed: China and relations with China enjoy a special place among our revolutionary people. It is the wish of the government and the nation to expand our relations with China as much as possible. Mr Velayati also commented on U.S. acts in the Persian Gulf, and stated: America's intention behind its political propaganda and military acts in the region is to set up and to strengthen its bases in regional countries.

The Central News Unit reports that in the first round of his 2-hour talks with Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, our deputy foreign minister for political affairs, the PRC deputy foreign minister discussed and exchanged views on bilateral, international, and regional issues.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD261249 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Qi Huaiyuan, the PRC Government's special envoy, this morning met with Majlis Speaker Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During the meeting, the PRC envoy handed Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani a message from PRC leaders and praised and commended Iran's position with regard to Persian Gulf developments. He declared that China is against the presence of foreign forces in the region, that it believes Persian Gulf security should be preserved by the regional countries, and that the extensive military presence of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf has made the situation extremely dangerous. He added: We expect Iran to continue exercising patience as in the past.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Chinese leaders for their principled position with regard to the situation in the Persian Gulf. He said: We confirm China's goodwill and friendship. You have observed how much forebearance and patience we have exercised toward the recent Persian Gulf issues to prevent insecurity from spreading. We could easily humiliate the United States and punish those who have invited the United States into the region in one stroke, but we do not intend to engage in provocation. Therefore, we accept your request to the effect that we should not initiate anything.

Continuing his remarks, the Majlis speaker said: The United States, with its extensive presence, and Britain and France, with their less extensive presence, have destroyed any possibility for a constructive move in the region. Any expeditionary force to the region by the United States will be damaging to the Third World and regional countries.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanajani stressed: Until the United States regrets its action and withdraws from the region, nothing except this important thing can be accomplished. [sentence as heard]

Mo'ayeri Departs on Visit to Turkey, CSSR, Bulgaria

LD240818 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMt 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 24, IRNA — Premier's political deputy, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri left Tehran on a three-nation tour of Turkey, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria Monday morning. Mo'ayeri is to deliver messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i to his Czech and Bulgarian counterparts on regional developments and U.S. provocations in the region.

In Turkey, the first leg of Mo'ayeri's tour, he will hand over a message from Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi of Iran to Turgut Ozal of Turkey. The message deals with Iran-Turkey relations, the latest developments in the Persian Gulf and also the July 31 massacre of the Iranian Pilgrims in Mecca, Mo'ayeri told IRNA prior to departure.

As for talks with Bulgarian officials he said that he would discuss Iran's viewpoints on the one-sided UN Security Council resolution and also the forthcoming visit of the Bulgarian premier to Tehran, in his meetings with Bulgarian officials.

Commentary Denounces Iraqi Bombing of Civilians

LD251735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Our foreign minister's message to the UN secretary general is the topic of our second commentary today. Following the Iraqi regime's savage attacks on our country's residential and civilian areas, Dr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. It says: During the past few days the Iraqi regime has repeatedly violated the 1949 Geneva Convention and the 12 June 1984 agreement and has disregarded the fourth item of the preface to Security Council Resolution No 598 by increasing its savage attacks on residential and civilian areas in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At present, the attention of the United States, Britain, and France is directed mostly toward the Persian Gulf. By stationing more than 41 warships in the region, they have created a great deal of tension. The United States' orders to the Iraqi regime not to attack oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, which resulted from a fear of retaliation by the forces of Islam, thwarted Iraq's policy to increase tension in the region. It was for this reason that Iraq first started attacking ships. Now, to make up for the disruption of its aggresive policy in the Persian Gulf, Iraq has resorted to air raids on our country's residential, economic, and civilian areas. These savage attacks were stepped up after Iraq received the green light from world arrogance [the United States]. They show the extent of the Iraqi regime's despondency and weakness. This regime has not been able to implement the aims of arrogance; that is, to block the advance of Islam's combatants toward final victory. Despite the support and complete assistance of the superpowers and regional reaction, it has suffered repeated defeats. It is witnessing the increasing advance of the forces of monotheism, and it is being kept happy while the superpowers try to find ways to combat this movement, to delay Iraq's downfall, if even by 1 day.

That is why, in addition to welcoming the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, the Iraqi regime desperately requests the presence of these forces in the region, and clearly states that the absence of these forces would result in an increase in Iranian influence.

Despite the agreement of the permanent and temporary members of the Security Council, one can see now that some countries, the Soviet Union in particular, one of the main pillars of that Council, have concluded that sitting around and issuing one-sided resolutions on the imposed war, without considering Iran's views, will not solve the problem.

Vladimir Petrovskiy, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, clearly declared: This country is opposed to the implementation of the solutions proposed by the Security Council on the Persian Gulf war, as long as Iran's stand is not given proper consideration. He stressed that if the United States insists on a secondary resolution calling for an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Soviet Union will not endorse it.

This recent stand taken by the Soviet Government testifies to a new tendency among some Security Council members, who have possibly reached the conclusion that the solution to the region's problems is to pay full attention to Iran's logical stands, and that the Iraqi regime's repeated violations of international law should be dealt with more decisively.

By stepping up its air raids on residential areas, the Iraqi regime has given its crimes a new dimension. It is the duty of international organizations to act decisively. If no action is taken regarding these crimes and the Iraqi regime becomes more audacious in implementing its bestial policies, then the Islamic Republic of Iran will not stand still and will be forced to retaliate, as a form of deterrent. The consequences would be the responsibility of Saddam's regime and international organizations.

Navy Searches Foreign Vessels in Strait of Hormuz

LD251540 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA — Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected three foreign vessels in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The 2939th Joint Staff Communique said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying 15 gun emplacements of theirs.

Iranian patrols infiltrated Iraqi positions throughout the fronts Monday, dealing effective blows on enemy troops and returning safely to bases.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses throughout the battlefields in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants Monday.

In these operations, the artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants heavily damaged five Iraqi vehicles and checked movement of enemy vehicle columns in Sardasht, Nahr 'Anbar, Chazabeh, Helaleh, Mehran, Zobeydeh and Sharhani, the communique concluded.

Navy Commander Interviewed on Minesweeping
LD241149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Interview with unidentified Navy commander by correspondent from the "Armed Forces" program; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text][Commander] Today, at a time when the Islamic Republic is stationed in the Gulf region, we see that the United States has resorted to very small excuses — which are laughable for the U.S. nation — such as, U.S. interests are being threatened. However, the world knows that the U.S. share in the shipment of oil here is no more than 7 percent. So, the interests that the United States is talking about do not exist here. Therefore, we see it in a different light.

The point is that the U.S. gendarme, Mr Saddam, is nearing the end of his life. Thanks to the operations by the fighters of Islam, the end of the Iraqi Ba'th Party's reign is near. The United States is worried. This worry and anxiety has forced the United States to think of ways to prolong Saddam's treacherous life for a few more days. That is why the United States has resorted to such ploys as saying that the oil tankers carrying oil for Kuwait are in danger. We should ask first: Are you Kuwait's legal counsel, as you make decisions for Kuwait? Are you the world's legal counsel? Even if we compare the situation with World War II against Japan in the Pacific Ocean, we see that the United States did not mobilize her forces to the extent that she has against the Islamic Republic.

At present the United States has two aircraft carriers in the area. The *Constellation* is here under the pretext of carrying out exercises; the *Saratoga* is in the region; the aircraft carrier *Ranger* has sailed under the pretext of replacing the *Constellation*. That makes three aircraft carriers. The United States asked for French and British help. It has asked Europe for help. It has mobilized all of them against the Islamic Republic.

On the other hand, we see what troubles the United States has brought on Kuwait. We see that this enemy, which is posing as Kuwait's friend, has sent a bill of about $40 billion for the operation to be allocated in Kuwait's budget for next year. That means that for each Kuwaiti oil barrel exported, the United States charges Kuwait $10. This is separate from the cost incurred as a result of the *Bridgeton*'s hitting a mine. It was very badly damaged and will cost a lot to repair.

Therefore, we see that the United States is not concerned with Kuwait. It is concerned with its main plan, to save Saddam, to scare regional countries — so that they will spend the dollars they have saved — and commit aggression in the region. We have proven to the world that we have no thoughts of aggression. Our only thought and aim is to maintain security in the Persian Gulf.

[Correspondent] Recently the minesweeping fleet of the Iranian Navy was engaged in an operation. Captain, please tell us about the various aspects of the operation and its progress.

[Commander] This minesweeping operation was carried out during the past few days by the special minesweeping fleet of the Iranian Navy in the strategic Strait of Hormuz from the Al-Fujayrah waters to the Bandar-e 'Abbas coastal waters, 120 nautical miles long and about 40 nautical miles wide, a region of about 40,000 square nautical miles. It was an extremely extensive operation. You saw, and so did the world, that assorted planes, helicopters, and reconnaissance naval vessels approached the area to supervise the Navy's minesweeping operations. The operation was carried out excellently.

First, we reconnoitered the area with fixed-winged Navy aircraft. Then we reconnoitered the area with helicopters. When we had calculated the depths [of the mines] using the sonar on our destroyers and our helicopters — which are equipped with sonar unlike anything found in the region — we began an underwater search. By using underwater sound waves we determined the position of the mines. Then, we determined the position of the minefield and marked it and put it on the ships. [sentence as heard] Then we started minesweeping.

Minesweeping first began with helicopters towing sonar, pressure [feshari], magnetic, and mechanical minesweeping equipment. Then, we used minesweeping vessels and boats. We located a large number of mines this way. The cutters on the helicopters and vessels cut them loose and brought them to the surface. Moreover, we brought in our mine-hunting divers who searched a large area. A large number of mines were found. They cut them loose and brought them to the surface. Our sharp-shooters fired at them from a distance, or else we went near to them and our divers placed explosive charges on the mines and exploded them.

Finally, to assure the world further that it is definitely safe wherever the Islamic Republic is minesweeping, we used our destroyers to fire depth charges, so that if the United states had placed new mines in the area, or if there were pressure or sonar mines on the sea bed, they would be blown up. Finally, we used our helicopters again. By firing explosives, we made these areas competely safe.

We ordered our minesweeping fleet, our destroyers, to cross the area after having cleared it of mines so that the world could see how truly safe an area is. We crossed it ourselves, so that everybody would be assured that where the Islamic Republic has mine-swept, there are no mines left.

[Correspondent] My last question is please describe for our dear listeners the Navy's readiness to clear the area of mines and to combat possible military moves by foreign powers against the interests of the Islamic Republic.

[Commander] The world has witnessed this readiness over the past few days. The Iranian minesweeping fleet is an experienced and specialized fleet that can go into action decisively and sweep mines in the Persian Gulf or anywhere else in the world. In the Persian Gulf especially, we have long-standing experience. If foreign fleets leave the Persian Gulf, if the United States ends its

agitation and recalls its vessels from the region, it can rest assured that as the Iranian minesweeping fleet has made the strategic Strait of Hormuz safe, it is capable of clearing the whole Persian Gulf in a very short time. We will definitely be successful in such an operation, thanks to our personnel and equipment.

On the other hand, the big countries and the superpowers have been making various threats and hatching various plots. Every day they expand and increase their facilities. The regular and irregular units and the suicide guerrilla operations of the Islamic Republic of Iran are ready. The United States knows this. During the past few days, the United States has told Iraq not to attack oil tankers and Iraq does not dare to attack our tankers. This is not because Saddam made this decision voluntarily. It is because the United States knows what the repercussions of such an action would be.

The United States does not have the capability to combat our suicide boats. The United States does not have the capability to confront the Iranian Navy which is prepared to turn the Persian Gulf into a graveyard for foreigners at the cost of martyrdom. Therefore, the Iranian nation can rest assured that the United States would never dare to do such a thing. If it were to resort to this useless action, it can be sure that the Persian Gulf would become a hell, the like of which the world has never seen, even in World War II.

5 Parliament Employees Held for Grenade Attack

BK261449 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1439 GMT 26 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 26 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG-CID) Frank Silva who is in charge of the investigations into the August 18 grenade attack in Parliament told Lanka Puwath tonight that 5 Parliament employees were now being detained for interrogation and a search was on for a sixth Parliament worker.

This suspect has been described as a graduate with possible links to the subversive political group — the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna].

He has been missing since the August 18th incident.

Police Arrest 6 JVP Members for Official's Murder

BK251459 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1329 GMT 25 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 25 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The police have arrested six suspects, members of the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP], in the southern town of Elpitiya in connection with the murder last Thursday [13 August] of Piyasena Thalagaswela, provincial coordinating officer of trade and shipping, minister M.S. Amarasiri who is the member of parliament for Hiniduma, [and] senior superintendent of police, Galle, W.A. Weeraratna, told *Lanka Puwath*.

Thalagaswela was returning to his home at Pitigala, close to Elpitiya, when he was stabbed and then shot by an armed gang.

The six suspects were arrested by the anti subversio unit of the Galle police when they were conducting a class in subversion.

The police also seized two guns and some ammunition.

WEEKEND Notes 'New' Intelligence on Proscribed Party

BK251617 Colombo WEEKEND in English 16 Aug 87 p 1

[Text] The possibility of a north-south arms link-up between two Tamil militant groups and the proscribed Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) is now receiving the attention of government's defence and security authorities, a top police source said yesterday.

The JVP has now been positively identified as the main threat to peace and stability in the country, government sources said.

The sources told *Weekend* several startling new facts about the group and its objectives have been communicated to the highest echelons of the government by the country's intelligence services, prompting new security measures.

One of the most significant findings is that Rohana Wijeweera, hitherto regarded as the JVP's leader was in fact a middle level leader, possibly the group's number five. Several professionals, and politicos were at the helm of the Peramuna, the sources revealed.

Government has also learnt that the JVP has been actively preparing for its current activities for ten years, before it was proscribed.

It is likely that the defence authorities will utilise the manpower becoming available by the dismantling of the Home Guards to supplement its security personnel dealing with the threat of the JVP, the same sources said.

The provision of additional security for all ministers and members of Parliament is one of the areas in which these cadres are likely to be involved, *Weekend* learns.

It is well known that the JVP is concentrating on collecting weapons at the moment, the sources said. At present, the Peramuna is believed to be in possession of about 50 automatic weapons and a large number of shotguns. One police source estimates that their total weapon strength would be around 2,000.